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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—Newspaper Decisions—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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FIRST EDITION.

TILTON-BEECHER.

ALIBI ESTABLISHED FOR THE DEFENDANT.

BEECHER'S FARM HANDS ON THE STAND.

Testimony of Members of the Plymouth Committee.

NEW YORK, March 29.—If the crowd around the Brooklyn City court room to-day is any indication, interest in the great scandal trial is on the increase. Mr. Beecher, his wife, youngest son, and Dr. Edward Beecher, were present and seated in front of the Plymouth church delegation. Mrs. Tilton and the women who usually accompany her were absent, but their places were occupied by other women.

David Dows, produce merchant, was the first witness called, and, in answer to a question put by Mr. Evarts, said: Miss Bessie Turner lived in my family; she came in the spring and left in the summer; but I do not recollect the year, nor have I any memorandum of dates. My family, with others, went on a trip to Omaha that spring; we left on the 31st of May and returned on the 12th of June. This concluded his direct examination, and the prosecution had no questions to ask him.

John Winslow was next called. He stated: I am a practicing lawyer and have been for twenty-five years; I was formerly district attorney for a large county; I was a member of the Investigating Committee of Plymouth church, meeting at Mr. Storrs' house. Mrs. Tilton was before the committee on the 8th of July at Mr. Ovington's; the committee were there five or six minutes before the examination began; Mr. Tracy accompanied us there, and was only absent two or three minutes. Mr. Tilton was before the committee on the 10th of July; he said that there would not be any investigation, and asked if Mr. Beecher wanted one, and he was assured that Mr. Beecher did; Mr. Cleveland showed him Mr. Beecher's letter calling for it. Mr. Tilton said his case was in writing; he never stated as to whether Mr. Beecher had made any confession, verbal or otherwise, to him. He saw Beecher's letter and read it very carefully. On the 13th of July, the day Tilton published his card, we had an interview; I met him on the street and told him I had read his letter; he said he would like to talk with me; that this investigation was all wrong, and ought not to be. He wanted the committee to adopt the report he had drawn; that, indeed, he had written two or three reports. I told him I did not want to hear anything except the testimony before the committee. He wanted me not to oppose, and asked me to do his statement justice. I was present when his sworn statement was read, and at his cross-examination: I was also present when Mr. Tilton attacked Mr. Tracy and heard what he said; there had been no regular session that afternoon. When Mr. Tilton said to Mr. Tracy, "You have no right to be here in collision with me after the promise you made," Mr. Tracy said, "Yes, but when I saw you changing your ground, I did not consider that binding." Tracy went into the front parlor and Tilton followed; he said "Tracy, I forgive you; I like you better than any man in Brooklyn." He put his arms around Tracy's neck; Tracy said something about forgiveness. Tilton said, "There is no difference between us, Tracy; I always forgive, but you never do."

The witness here left the stand, and Thomas James Turner was called. He testified: I reside at Peekskill, and am in Mr. Beecher's employ, taking care of his farm. In the summer of 1870 the persons employed upon the farm were his son, Nicholas Sullivan and others. On Monday, June 28, 1874, Mr. Beecher was at his farm; he arrived there at 8:48, on the train leaving Forty-second street depot at 2:00. Mrs. Beecher was with him. They stayed there until the next afternoon. I sent to the train for him, being advised of his coming by a telegram. He left for New York the following day. He came there again the 18th of June.

Cross-examined—I saw the telegram which left New York by the telegram. I have not got it, but I have a copy of it. I had not been in New York since the January previous. Until I saw a copy of the telegram with Mr. Hill I had not recollected the date of Mr. Beecher's coming. I have a memorandum of the fifty cents I paid for carrying the telegram to the farm, June 28. I have not the memorandum book with me. I also examined the butcher's book, for I got meat for them when they were there. It was on Monday when Beecher came to Peekskill on that occasion; it was on Monday, the twenty-sixth of May, that Beecher came there before that. The farm is twenty minutes' drive from the station. I drove there for Mr. Beecher and his wife. Mr. Beecher sometimes comes in the evening to the farm, and at other times in the evening to the farm. He left for New York the following day, Tuesday.

Re-direct examination—There was only one horse at the farm on that occasion, which Mr. Beecher kept for his son. My son went after the baggage for Mr. Beecher. Mr. Beecher was up at my wife's funeral, on the 31st of May. My son began work for wages in June, and his coming down to the depot for the baggage was the first work he did. All my charges are entered in a memorandum book on Saturday, and among them entered on that day was a charge for the telegram.

Re-cross-examination—My son Joseph had gone several times to the railway station before he began to work for wages.

After recess, Joseph L. Turner was called. He said: I reside at Peekskill, and am son of the last witness called. I am living with my father. I was attending to the employment of Beecher, in June, 1874. I went in the afternoon to meet Beecher, on June 2, 1874, at the 3:48 train. I met Mr. and Mrs. Beecher at the depot at Peekskill, and drove them to the house. Mr. Beecher left for the city on Tuesday; I drove him down after dinner, to either the 2:15 train or the 4:20. My mother died on the 29th of May, and Mr. Beecher attended the funeral on the 24th. Mr. Beecher returned to New York, and came back on the 26th of May. After June 3d I did not see Mr. Beecher until June 18th.

Cross-examined—I have no memoranda to guide me in these dates. I remember the 24th of June, because it was the first day I did work. The 1st of June fell on Sunday, and that is not a working day there. I went to meet Mr. Beecher at the two o'clock train; Mrs. Beecher came there, Mr. Beecher had been there on the 26th of May. I drove them to the station on Tuesday; it was in the afternoon, but I cannot tell the time of day. I met the train on June 24, and may have waited on it ten or fifteen minutes.

Thomas Rochefort testified: I am receiver of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and was at Peekskill on the 24th of June, 1874. I remember receiving the dispatch from Beecher on that day. I have a book, in which the messages are sometimes not dated, but we are enabled to fix the date by the book.

Mr. Hill read the telegram, directed to Turner, asking him to send and meet him at the train.

Witness continued: I do not know whether this is in Beecher's handwriting or not.

Cross-examined—The entry of the memorandum is by the manager of the department. I received the telegram at the office.

Re-direct examination—The original telegram has no date, but I will swear it was the 24th of June, from the entry in the book.

The next witness was Emile B. Dinslor. He said: I am a telegraph operator in the Brooklyn office of the Western Union. I shown message. I sent this from Brooklyn to the New York office on the 24th of June, 1874. This was taken from the files two weeks ago by Mr. Hughes, the manager of the Brooklyn office. The message was put up in separate days. The "8:38" marked on the margin, is in the morning, and all messages for Peekskill have to go over to the New York office.

The witness then left the stand.

Ben. Kittridge, formerly of Cincinnati, testified: I reside at Peekskill, and live about three hundred feet from Beecher's residence. The ordinary method of going to Beecher's house is by main. I have known Beecher for ten years. He was at his farm on the 2d of June, 1874. I am a farmer, and come to New York about three times a week. I was in New York on that day, and returned by the four o'clock train, arriving home about 5:45 or 5:50. Beecher was home at the time I arrived there; I saw him with several persons when I reached the premises, and heard him cough distinctly. Beecher, I do not think, could have come on that train with me. I saw him next day; I do not like date because I wished to see him about some little business, and because he had moved up for the summer. I recollect being disappointed at not seeing him, as he went back to New York for a week or ten days.

Thomas J. Tilney testified: I am a lawyer in New York, and reside in Brooklyn. I was married on Tuesday, the 30 of June, at seven in the evening, by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. I noticed that he did not seem to be arrayed for the occasion and was not dressed for a wedding.

The next witness was Dr. Fred. A. Putnam, who testified: I practice medicine at 253 Fourth avenue, and live at Flushing, Long Island. I remember the 4th of that month: I left New York and went by the Harlem Railroad. I met Mr. Beecher between seven and eight in the morning, between Hartford and New Haven. I spoke to Mr. and Mrs. Beecher; they were on the express train for Boston.

Stephen D. White was the next witness. He testified: I have resided in Brooklyn about three years, and am a member of Plymouth church. I am a stock operator in New York, and am a member of the legal profession, and practiced in Missouri. I was a member of the Investigating Committee, but was not present on July 6th, when Mrs. Tilton testified. I was present when Tilton did, July 6th. He said his case depended on written documents under Beecher's own signature. Mr. Tracy said there might be discussion about what the papers would show, and that the committee could judge when they saw them. He also said if the charge against Beecher was criminality, the document shown to him could not support the charge. Then Tilton sent us to that we knew there was no case, but that there was, and that Beecher said to him if ever he intended to put forward these papers to let him know, that he might leave the country. Tilton's manner was highly suggestive as meaning that the story should come out. He said the committee was too large. Tracy said he should bring forward the papers and let the committee judge. He felt sorry for Beecher, he said, and for his grey hairs. There was no suggestion of any threatening having been made, at that time. He said that his letter to Dr. Bacon had been called forth by the attitude of Plymouth church and Beecher, and that if all were published it would be seen to show that Beecher was the creature of his magnanimity, and not vice versa. He said he had taken pains, in the Bacon letter, not to characterize the charge. He also said: "Gentlemen, you do not want it, neither do I," and he did not want any further investigation, and deprecated it as unwise and uncalled for. He read Beecher's letter calling for the committee. He said: "Gentlemen, you do not want them" (referring to the documents), and after reading this letter he said he would think about it. He presented no letters with his sworn statement.

The next witness was Henry L. Hughes. He testified: I am manager of the Brooklyn telegraph office. The hand-writing on the telegram, June 24, 1874, is mine. No person requested me to put the date; it was my own work.

Horace B. Claflin then took the stand. He testified: I reside in Brooklyn and have lived there about thirty years. I am a dry goods merchant in New York, and before that was in the same business in Worcester, Massachusetts. I have known Henry Ward Beecher forty years. I have known Theodore Tilton, since he came here, and am a member of his congregation. I have known Theodore Tilton, a little about half that time. I have known Henry C. Bowen about thirty-five years. In the spring of 1871 I was present, at Moulton's house, when an arbitration was talked over between Bowen and Tilton. There were present Wilcoxon, Moulton, Tilton and myself. Wilcoxon had a piece proof of the *Golden Age* with him, the same paper a portion of which was incorporated in the Tripartite Agreement. Wilkeson had a draft of the Tripartite Agreement, which was read and talked over that night. I had not then seen Bowen. The conversation was about the publication of these statements, threatened by Tilton, in the *Golden Age* unless Bowen settled for the contracts due him in the Brooklyn *Union* and *Bonaparte*. Tilton said there was due him seven, eight or nine thousand dollars. Tilton said he would publish the article in the next paper, unless he had a settlement; the money was his due and he would have it. I said to him there was no use for such a publication; it could do him no good, and that Bowen would pay him. I promised to intercede for him with Bowen, and told him that an arbitration had been talked over, into which Bowen was willing to enter. I said I thought his statement should not be published, as it was a great scandal. Tilton said he would publish it notwithstanding. This interview broke up about ten o'clock. I saw Bowen a day or two after this. Before parting that night, we were to meet again Tuesday night. I think I saw Bowen next day. When I went there I had the press proof and showed it to him; I interceded for Tilton, and we met again Tuesday night, the same parties being present. The paper Wilkeson had of an agreement was read over and discussed. Tilton said it was satisfactory to him and he wanted to sign it, but I withheld him until Bowen should sign it. We talked about two hours over it, and I said I thought Bowen would come to the arbitration. Tilton differed with me about that. When I took the paper to Bowen he was to tell him he ought to sign it like a Christian man, and also that the guard was gotten up by the newspapers. I said to Moulton and Tilton that I thought the publication would injure Bowen and his papers. I saw Bowen that night, and returned to Moulton's. I said Bowen did not object to sign the paper and wanted to read it and think it over. I said to them I thought Bowen would sign the paper. Either Wilkeson or Tilton said I made a great mistake in not having it signed, and that I should not have left it with him. Charles Storrs was proposed as one of the arbitrators; James Freeland was also to be one. The time of the meeting of the two was arranged upon that night: it was to be in Moulton's study.

Court adjourned.

COLUMBUS.

Proceedings in the General Assembly.

Report of the Committee to Investigate Telegraph, Express and Fast Freight Companies.

THE WOOD COUNTY BRIBERY INVESTIGATION.

The Committee Implicates Four Members,

And the House Whitewashes and Exonerates Them.

COLUMBUS, March 29.—The Senate this morning passed Mr. Pearson's bill to prevent town councils from prohibiting the sale of ale, wine and beer, just as it came from the House. The House again passed Mr. Geghan's bill to allow ministers of all religious denominations to enter any public, benevolent, penal or reformatory institutions for religious exercises.

The Special Committee appointed to investigate the management of telegraph, express and fast freight lines in Ohio, made their report to the General Assembly to-day. In short, the committee report that the telegraph companies are well managed and no legislation is necessary regarding them; that express companies, in some cases, charge too much for the transmission of articles, and much of their heavy charges are made necessary by the extravagant contracts the companies are forced to make with railroad companies, and that no legislation can interfere with the express rates. The committee in severe terms denounce the so-called fast freight lines and transportation companies, and declare that the Legislature should take steps to abolish them.

The Special Committee appointed to investigate the charges of alleged bribery of members of the House of Representatives, in connection with the Wood County bill, made their report this afternoon, stating that they had examined a large number of witnesses, and offered them the privilege of making it to be the sense of the House that George L. Converse, Hiram Murlin and James S. Gordon be exonerated from all blame in the matter in question; that John Baker, of Coshocton, and E. M. Walker, of Darke, are deserving of censure by the House for their conduct as representatives of the Wood County bill; and recommending that John M. Hoag, of Henry, and John M. Cooley, of Cuyahoga, be brought before the bar of the House to receive the severe reprimanded for their connection with this bill. Four members of the committee dissent from that part of the report recommending the censuring of Messrs. Hoag and Cooley, and recommend their expulsion from their positions as members of the House. The first part of the resolution, concerning Messrs. Converse, Murlin and Gordon, was at once adopted. After a long discussion, the other resolutions were so amended as to exonerate all the gentlemen named in them, and, as amended, they were adopted.

WARLIKE MINERS.

Simultaneous Movement at Several Places Against Colliers—Special Police Shot, Beaten and Disarmed.

MAUCH CHUNK, PA., March 29.—Intelligence was received here this morning of an outbreak in the collieries at Buck Mountain, Eckley, Drifton, Jeddo, Ebervale and Hazleton. A large mob of miners, in a state of great excitement, started simultaneously at Buck Mountain and Eckley, with the determination to visit all the mines in their neighborhood. They disarmed the special police from Philadelphia stationed at Buck Mountain, and took their arms along. They then went to Jeddo, where policeman King was shot in the head, but not fatally wounded, and policemen Warner and Myers were badly beaten with clubs and their weapons taken. At the following places visited, the men were forced to go with them: Eckley, Drifton, Jeddo and Ebervale. They called at Mount Pleasant colliery also, forcing the men to cease work, although their employer is paying the rates of the 1874 basis. No damage to property has been done so far, but it is not known whether they will resume work at this colliery. The raiders marched through Hazelton, where Father O'Harra, a Roman Catholic priest, advised and exhorted them to return peaceably to their homes, and at last accounts they were quietly disbanding. There is a general hope that, if the miners continue in their outrageous conduct, the operators will call on the Governor for troops; and the opinion is expressed that they have gone too far and that the time has come for more vigorous measures for the safety of life and property.

HARRISBURG.

Meeting of Board of Pardons in May—Lynch and Briceland to Get a Hearing.

HARRISBURG, March 29.—The next meeting of the Board of Pardons will be held Tuesday, the 4th of May, when, by the accession of the Secretary of Internal Affairs, the board will be fully organized as prescribed by the Constitution. At this meeting, in addition to cases regularly upon the list, hearings will be had in the cases of Ambrose O. Lynch, Allegheny county; Henry Briceland, Washington county; George Haynes, Potter county, and Charles Lariboe, Venango county, severally convicted of murder and wherein applications have been made for pardon or commutation of sentence to imprisonment for life.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-day.—Generally clear and warmer weather during the day, with east to south winds and high, but falling barometer.

The Cologne *Gazette* says there is no truth in the report that Bismarck is to be made Duke of Lauenburg.

The correspondent Buell, charged with stabbing ex-Senator Chandler in the Detroit *Free Press*, was yesterday finally discharged by the United States Circuit Court, at St. Louis.

Judge D. F. Mitchell, a native of Florida, recently connected with the Custom House at Brownsville, Texas, and for many years a resident of New Orleans, died at Brownsville on Sunday.

A dispatch from New Redford states that the banking house of S. P. Bart suspended yesterday morning. The house hitherto was considered sound. Liabilities $300,000; assets $450,000.

The Irish born portion of the population of Scranton and vicinity, have resolved to honor the memory of John Mitchel by abandoning the street parade and raising a fund for his widow.

A dispatch from Trieste says great preparations are being made for the unveiling, next month, of the monument in memory of Maximilian. All the companions of the late Emperor in Mexico have been invited.

The only manufactory of wooden skewers in the world exists at Toledo, Ohio, whence millions of them are annually shipped to England. They are made by machinery from hickory blocks.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

UNITED STATES TREASURER SPINNER

Resigns His Position by Special Request.

FRED GRANT MEDITATES RESIGNATION.

And Will Act as the Head of a New Banking Firm.

Probable Postponement of the Grant Parish Case.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29, 1875.

Resignation of Treasurer Spinner.

United States Treasurer Spinner, under the impression that he was an indispensable adjunct to the Treasury Department, has for the past few years been carrying on in rather a high-handed manner, in the matter of claiming power not consistent with discipline and threatening to resign if thwarted in his demands. He has at last been brought up with a round turn. Several days ago his resignation was requested. It has been sent in, to take effect June 30, the end of the fiscal year, and has been accepted. It is said that John C. New, cashier of the First National bank of Indianapolis, will succeed General Spinner.

The Grant Parish Case.

The Grant parish, Louisiana, case, involving the constitutionality of the Enforcement and Ku-Klux acts, now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, is likely to go over till next session. The justices of the court held a consultation to-day and, though no decision was reached, the expression of views pointed toward postponement.

Fred Grant to try the Banking Business.

The President and family will leave for New York to-morrow, to accompany Col. Fred Grant and wife thus far on their way to Chicago. Colonel Grant will resume duty as Military Secretary to the Lieutenant General. It is learned that he contemplates resigning his commission in the army next fall, to enter into the banking business in Washington with a son of D. H. Cooke, of the late firm of Jay Cooke & Co., and Mr. Sherman, a clerk in the same house. It is stated that the firm will be "Grant, Sherman & Cooke."

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24, 1875.

CASES OF KING AND SCHUMAKER IN THE CRIMINAL COURT—PRELIMINARY BRUSH BETWEEN COUNSEL—THE GRAND JURY ABOUT TO CONSIDER THE INDICTMENTS.

In the Criminal Court to-day, Judge McArthur, General B. F. Butler and Richard Harrington, counsel for Representative-elect Wm. S. King, called attention to the resolution of the House of Representatives, passed at the last session and transmitted to the District Attorney, together with the book of testimony taken before the Committee on Ways and Means in the Pacific Mail investigation. This resolution instructed the District Attorney to lay before the Grand Jury such portions of said testimony as relates to the truth of the statements made by W. S. King and John G. Schumaker. General Butler stated that it was not proper or lawful that any testimony, papers or affidavits should be laid before the Grand Jury which was not competent nor relevant to the matter before the jury. He cited several authorities, and asked the court to instruct the Grand Jury as to what evidence they should take cognizance of. He said that what was proposed to send to the Grand Jury, was a mass of unverified affidavits, and cited from the trial of Aaron Burr, that affidavits should not be used when the personal attendance of witnesses could be procured. General Butler said this book could not be sent to the Grand Jury as evidence.

Judge Fisher said the Government admitted the correctness of this view.

Judge McArthur said the Court could not decide the application in the dark; he knew what the book or document was.

General Butler—There are only 680 pages to be read before it can be decided.

District Attorney Fisher said that he understood the motion to be that the District Attorney could not lay the matter before the Grand Jury without the order of the court. He submitted that it was the province of the Court to make an order sending the book to the Grand Jury, and that in obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives he could send the book there. He referred to the oath taken by the Grand Jury, and said the affidavit could go before them. It was the province of the Court and the rights of every journal and of every citizen in the vast Republic. This action would, the District Attorney said, be unseemly delay, and if there was a particle of justice in it. It then expresses the hope that the influence of this decision will not extend and perpetuate itself, and outlines: "If it can be shown that the man who presumed to exercise the power of imprisoning a citizen, is himself not entitled to respect for probity for judicial wisdom; that his motives were improper; then the decision which he made will become isolated and will only stand as an act of usurpation which will not involve the rights of other citizens." It then proceeds to show that such is the case, since the legal authorities cited by Judge Williams were quashed, and in some cases there was deliberate falsification. It continues: "There was not an element of judicial fairness or candor in the paper; it was a heated, vindictive argument of a partisan. Within this document he lied repeatedly, openly, monstrously. He perverted facts; he omitted essential elements; he was a public prosecutor laboring with furious zeal to convict an alleged offender. His utterances were couched with malice and outraged vanity; he traveled within the record where it would aid him, and out of it with equal facility and rapidity when his purpose required it. He elaborately defended himself and the State's Attorney, as if their grievances had ought to do with the issues involved in the case before him. He cited himself to prove himself immaculate, and went on to the stand to testify in the interests of justice to prosecutor." It shows that he refused vindictively to entertain any motions having a tendency to mitigate his sentence. It concludes that the action of such a man should not be permitted to carry its weight.

The *Tribune*, after reviewing the facts in the case, says: "Our sympathies are naturally with the press in this case. It would be useless to deny it, and consequently we can scarcely claim to be an impartial spectator of the proceedings, and must therefore be accused for not joining in a jubilation over the incarceration of our neighbor, grave as his contempt may be; and Judge Williams must pardon us for saying that if the editor of the *Times* was seeking for the notoriety of martyrdom, as many allege, the sentence of the court has to some extent furnished him the advertisement he wanted. There will be many at first to applaud the action of the court, who afterwards will experience grave doubts whether a mistake has not been committed which will lead them to favor the complete abolition of constructive contempts.

At a late hour to-night, the following was received by the attorneys for Mr. Storey, from their partner in Waukegan.

WAUKEGAN, March 29.

Geo. R. Chandler:

The following is the order for the release of Mr. Storey: "Upon plaintiff in error entering into recognizance before the Sheriff, in $2,500, with Geo. Chandler as surety, he will be discharged from custody. (Signed) Wm. K. McAllister, Judge Supreme Court."

(Signed) WILLIAM C. GOUDY.

IMPORTANT ARREST.

Detective Benson Takes the Alleged Murderer of Deputy Marshal Butler in 1864.

Special Dis atch to the Commercial.

BROOKVILLE, Pa, March 29, 1875.

A dispatch received here to-day, from S. B. Benson, of the United States Secret Service, says he has arrested, at Abingdon, Va., Loundsburry, who murdered United States Deputy Marshal Cyrus Butler in Clearfield county, in 1864. He is now on his way to Pittsburgh with the prisoner, for trial.

DR. WARDER has investigated a peach orchard at North Bend, taking the testimony of about three hundred buds, and found forty-one per cent. of them apparently sound, promising a good crop. This is good news, and rather unexpected, for there has been an impression that the extreme cold weather last month killed all the peach buds. Forty-one per cent, we may add, is quite enough for all practical purposes.—*Cincinnati Commercial.*

Mixed. The Baptist church in Frankfort, Kentucky, has an ex-Union General for pastor and an ex-rebel Colonel for deacon. They have two other deacons from the penitentiary, and a fourth from the feeble-minded institute.

CHICAGO.

WILBUR F. STOREY, OF THE "TIMES," IN JAIL.

Ten Days' Imprisonment for Abusing the Grand Jury.

Opinions of the City Press on the Proceeding.

The Supreme Court "Supersedes" and Releases the Prisoner.

CHICAGO, March 29.—In the Criminal Court of Cook county, this morning, Judge Williams sentenced Wilbur F. Storey, editor of the Chicago *Times*, to ten days imprisonment in the county jail, for contempt of court, in having published articles constructively reflecting on the character of certain members of the Grand Jury.

Mr. Storey at present occupies Jailor Doyle's private office, where he receives friends and citizens, who call by hundreds, with as much ease as in his own office. He expects to be released upon an order of Judge McAllister, of the Supreme Court, before whom application for a *supersedeas* has been made by Mr. Goudy, of his counsel. There is a good deal of excitement in the city over the action of Judge Williams. The general sentiment condemns it as an extraordinary and high-handed exercise of power. The article referred to by the court in justification of its order, criticising the Grand Jury and States' Attorney, was written after several indictments had been returned against the *Times*, and could not therefore be construed as obstructing the proceedings of the court. The averment of the article that corrupt and disreputable men were on the Grand Jury, it is claimed, can be substantiated, and the criticism is regarded as justifiable. The feeling in this community is that the Court has exercised a dangerous power, and has struck a blow at the freedom of the press.

The city dailies, without exception, condemn the action of Judge Williams. Of the evening papers, the *Post and Mail* speaks in terms of the severest censure of the matter and manner of the charge, which, it says, was delivered in the most vindictive style.

The *Journal* says, editorially: "We unhesitatingly pronounce the proceeding a judicial outrage of the most flagrant character, and venture the prediction that it will not be long before the Judge will have occasion to repent him of his rashness. We publish in our city columns a pretty full synopsis of the Judge's decision." The morning papers will publish editorials of a similar character.

The *Inter-Ocean*, after asserting that it speaks in no partisan spirit, and certainly not as sympathizing with the *Times*, "We are opposed to the imprisonment of any citizen upon process of law, and we do not regard the summary proceeding of the committal to jail for contempt of any individual, as due process of law; for the right it confers at all, goes to the extent of confinement for life. Judge Williams, in imprisoning Mr. Storey for ten days, asserted his right to confine him during the remainder of his life. The American people will not consent to hold their liberty at the will of any judge of any court. Judge Williams, in the course of his opinion, admits that he read the offensive articles in the *Times* with a feeling of intense indignation, but says that the feeling has entirely passed away. He then defends and eulogizes the State's attorney, and proceeds to declare that no city in the United States has been the scene of such events as have been transpiring in Chicago for the past few weeks. Judge Williams forgets that recently, in New York, the Grand Jury persistently attacked and pursued to impeachment by the journals of that city, and that one of them died of shame and remorse. In the case of Beecher, it does not appear that the administration of justice has been impeded one iota. But the people will not allow judges to assume the exercise of prerogatives dangerous to the freedom of speech and liberty of the citizen. They will not permit the doctrine of constructive contempts, as illustrated in this strong case, to become the law of the land. The imprisonment of the editor of the *Times* without the privilege of bail, upon the employment of an unknown power by the judges of the Criminal Court, is a matter whose interest reaches far beyond the individuals who enact the play before the public spectacle. The *Times* does not choose to regard it from the standpoint of the involved personality of its editor. His imprisonment is no more an outrage upon that of any other man. His position, his influence, his surroundings neither add to nor detract from the real fact involved in this transaction. His case is the mention of power by an official, and its use to deal a blow—not at Mr. Storey, but at a citizen—not at the Chicago *Times*, but at the freedom of the press and the existence of vital constitutional rights. The action of the Jeffries who, on yesterday, acted on the principle that it was confined to the narrow judicial domain which he occupies, or to that filled by this newspaper. It widens and broadens until it reaches and includes the private rights of the country and the rights of every citizen in the vast Republic. This action would, the *Times* asserts, be unanimously damned if there was a particle of justice in it. It then expresses the hope that the influence of this decision will not extend and perpetuate itself, and outlines: "If it can be shown that the man who presumed to exercise the power of imprisoning a citizen, is himself not entitled to respect for probity for judicial wisdom; that his motives were improper; then the decision which he made will become isolated and will only stand as an act of usurpation which will not involve the rights of other citizens." It then proceeds to show that such is the case, since the legal authorities cited by Judge Williams were quashed, and in some cases there was deliberate falsification. It continues: "There was not an element of judicial fairness or candor in the paper; it was a heated, vindictive argument of a partisan. Within this document he lied repeatedly, openly, monstrously. He perverted facts; he omitted essential elements; he was a public prosecutor laboring with furious zeal to convict an alleged offender. His utterances were couched with malice and outraged vanity; he traveled within the record where it would aid him, and out of it with equal facility and rapidity when his purpose required it. He elaborately defended himself and the State's Attorney, as if their grievances had ought to do with the issues involved in the case before him. He cited himself to prove himself immaculate, and went on to the stand to testify in the interests of justice to prosecutor." It shows that he refused vindictively to entertain any motions having a tendency to mitigate his sentence. It concludes that the action of such a man should not be permitted to carry its weight.

The *Tribune*, after reviewing the facts in the case, says: "Our sympathies are naturally with the press in this case. It would be useless to deny it, and consequently we can scarcely claim to be an impartial spectator of the proceedings, and must therefore be accused for not joining in a jubilation over the incarceration of our neighbor, grave as his contempt may be; and Judge Williams must pardon us for saying that if the editor of the *Times* was seeking for the notoriety of martyrdom, as many allege, the sentence of the court has to some extent furnished him the advertisement he wanted. There will be many at first to applaud the action of the court, who afterwards will experience grave doubts whether a mistake has not been committed which will lead them to favor the complete abolition of constructive contempts.

At a late hour to-night, the following was received by the attorneys for Mr. Storey, from their partner in Waukegan.

WAUKEGAN, March 29.

Geo. R. Chandler:

The following is the order for the release of Mr. Storey: "Upon plaintiff in error entering into recognizance before the Sheriff, in $2,500, with Geo. Chandler as surety, he will be discharged from custody. (Signed) Wm. K. McAllister, Judge Supreme Court."

(Signed) WILLIAM C. GOUDY.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

England.

TICHBORNE RELEASE COMMITTEE.

LONDON, March 29.—One of the largest meetings that has taken place in this city for several years, was held to-day in Hyde Park, under the auspices of the Tichborne Release Committee. Some place the number present as high as one hundred thousand. Bands of music were engaged, and flags and banners were displayed bearing mottoes expressing sympathy with and demanding justice for the claimant. The addresses were short. Dr. Kneasley and Messrs. Onslow and Whalley were the principal speakers. The enthusiastic people unhitched the horses from the carriages of these gentlemen, and then drew them to Hyde Park. Resolutions were adopted denouncing the crushing partiality of the judges on the trial, the unscrupulous license of the prosecution, and the absolute miscarriage of justice, and declaring that they would know no rest till the enormous judicial crime was rectified. The meeting adjourned tumultuously. The speakers were escorted from the park by great crowds.

France.

THE UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL.

PARIS, March 29.—At the sitting of the Permanent Committee of the Assembly to-day, Lafayette asked the Government what were its intentions with regard to the United States Centennial Exhibition, and promised that it would have the support of the committee in all measures aiming at a worthy representation of France at Philadelphia in 1876.

The Duke Decazes replied that the work had the entire sympathy, and measures would be taken to promote it in every possible way. He added that when the Assembly reconvenes it would be asked to grant a credit for the purpose. This had not yet been done, because the Government wished to act with the utmost economy. The Minister of Commerce will address a circular to all chambers of commerce asking their co-operation.

PASSPORT TO SPAIN DENIED TO ISABELLA'S BROTHER-IN-LAW.

PARIS, March 29.—A passport to Spain has been denied to Montpensier, on the ground that in giving it the Government would establish a precedent by which Isabella might return to Madrid, which is undesirable.

QUINET'S FUNERAL.

PARIS, March 29.—The funeral of M. Quinet took place to-day. Victor Hugo and M. Gambetta delivered orations at the grave. The crowd was immense, and there was some disorder.

TEXAS.

Particulars of the Mexican Outrage at Nueces—Letter from the Postmaster—One of the Bandits Lynched at Corpus Christi—Further Trouble Feared.

GALVESTON, March 29.—A *News* special from Corpus Christi gives the following letter from the postmaster at Nueces, who was robbed and his house burned by raiding Mexicans:

"On the 20th instant, about four o'clock P. M., while conversing with a man named Smith, I discovered three Mexicans approaching my store. I went into the sitting room for my shotgun, and Smith followed me. I was rushed in with a Mexican following him and a gun pointed, presented to fire. My wife interposed and prevented the shot. I then grappled at me, but I proved too quick and saved my life by taking the gun from him at the next out-thrusts in the store, which, discovering about fifty outside, I did not shoot. I then ran out, and seeing no way to execute myself, which I did in a subterranean passage, where I found Smith. The robbers completely sacked my store, packing the valuables in wagons. About time the mail arrived from San Antonio arrived. They took him prisoner, and the mail was reached me. Smith now left his hiding place and came in. They gave chase and murdered him. The murderers, seven in number, have left concealment, which I did unnoticed. I remained near and witnessed the destruction of my home. They were evidently believing me consumed in the flames, as children were dancing around the house as they lay prostrate on the ground from fright. Before leaving my store they had secured a large amount of goods, and helped themselves to the most cruel treatment, stripping some and compelling them to go barefoot before them. The loss is from exhaustion and exposure, and left on the roadside.

Signed) T. J. NOAKES."

One of the leaders was captured and lodged in jail here saturday. A meeting of the people was held to-night to see what disposition should be made of the prisoner. It resulted in a mob, which took the prisoner from jail, was formed, the prisoner arraigned, counsel for prosecution and defence appointed and a jury empanelled. The evidence showed the prisoner guilty of murder, arson, robbery and other crimes. The prisoner had confessed and was sentenced to be hanged, and was immediately hanged at 9:30 P. M.

A report of the place has just returned from Mexico, where he went to purchase cattle. He visited Monterey and Matamoras, and learned that about seven hundred men had left that section for Texas—their purpose not stated. He returned to Brownsville rapidly home. At Camargo and vicinity all the soldiers have been disarmed, and bands of four and six hundred are reported crossing the river near Roma and Edenburg. It is stated that a further raid on this place (Corpus Christi) is contemplated, and the Mexican officials and laws boasted that his bugies would sound in the streets of Corpus Christi when the people least expect it.

A MINNESOTA HORROR.

A Family of Seven Persons, Burnt Out of House and Home, Walk Naked a Mile Through the Snow—Death of the Father and Two Children.

ST. PAUL, March 29.—Sunday morning the house of a farmer named Colson, at Parker's prairie, Twenty-five miles south of Wadena, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, caught fire from the bursting of a kerosene lamp. The flames spread so rapidly that in a moment the night clothes of the father, mother and five children were on fire. Colson finally dashed through a window and secured his family, but in a sad condition. They all dragged themselves to the nearest neighbor's, a mile distant, barefooted and naked, leaving the tracks of their progress in the snow all the way. The father and two children have since died of their injuries, and it is thought that the mother and remaining children cannot long survive.

FIRE RECORD.

Jeffersonville, Ind—$15,000.

JEFFERSONVILLE, March 29.—At seven o'clock this morning a fire burst from the pattern shop of the Southwestern Car Company, located inside the main walls of the State Prison South, burning up $5,000 worth of patterns belonging to the Southwestern Car Company, Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis Railroad Company and the Louisville and Paducah Railroad Company. The portion belonging to the Southwestern Car Company, and the machinery, which is partially damaged, are fully insured. The convicts in State, if the main walls of the shop have to be rebuilt, will reach $10,000. It is not definitely known how the fire originated. Though the excitement ran high among the convicts, they behaved well. The main portion of them were locked in their cells. At one time it was feared the whole prison building would take fire, and two fire engines were telegraphed for from Louisville, but before they reached this side of the river the flames were under control. This is the third time the same buildings have been burned.

Boarding House Destroyed—Three Inmates Burnt to Death.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—A boarding house, filled with occupants, was burned this morning at one o'clock, at Benicia. The inmates escaped by jumping from the windows. Several were severely burnt. Three men, named Finnerty, Shea and A. C. Houson, perished in the flames. Finnerty was a bricklayer; Shea, collector for San Francisco contractors furnishing stone for the arsenal; and Houson, engaged by the same

The Commercial.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1875.

THERE is a glimmer of hope that we may presently have comparatively clean streets. It is faint, like the pale light of a kerosene lamp in a London fog, but still it is something.

THE total value of the exports of Boston last week was $901,540. The total value thus far during the year is $8,900,234, an increase of $1,160,970 over the corresponding period of last year.

THE Government printing office at Washington is about to enter into a contest with the Typographical Union, by refusing to pay the reduced rates to be fixed adopting the new reduced rates to be fixed this week by the publishers of that city.

THE New York *Herald* sarcastically "regrets" the recent death of a favorite mare belonging to the President, because "if she had lived, there is no reason why she should not have been nominated to one of our foreign missions." This is a clear case of envy on the part of a member of an inferior towards one of a superior species.

THERE appears to be a general paralyzation of business in the architectural iron working establishments of the country. It is estimated that, taking the trade all through, there are not at present employed more than from one-third to one-half the force usual in prosperous seasons, while the men are all working on short time.

THE friends of KERR, of Indiana, say it will never do to elect FERNANDO WOOD or SAM. RANDALL to the Speakership of the House; it would ruin the party to choose either. The friends of RANDALL and WOOD say the same of KERR: and as the party is bound to be ruined, anyhow, it does not matter which one of them it is ruined with.

THE latest notable achievement of the Democratic Legislature of Illinois is the defeat of a bill providing for the payment to women employed in State institutions of the same salaries as men, when holding similar positions and doing a similar amount of work. This is Democracy's method of illustrating its belief in "equal and exact justice to all."

IN THE matter of the tobacco tax, the increase of which took effect on March 3d, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue insists that it applies to all tobacco manufactured on that day. It is a well settled legal principle that in laws there are no such things as fractions of a day. When a Federal law is made to take effect from or on and after the day of its passage, the day of its passage and the whole of that day is included.

THE proposition of the Missouri Legislature to build a branch penitentiary with nine hundred cells, to cost $300,000, reminds the St. Louis *Republican* of "the very important fact that crime in Missouri has increased beyond our accommodations for it—that we have more criminals than room to put them in—and a new prison is necessary. It is an unpleasant fact to recognize, but it must be looked square in the face." Missouri is one of the model Democratic States of the Union.

ANOTHER search, and one more thorough than any of those yet instituted, is to be made in England this year for SHAKESPEARE'S papers. It is generally conceded that the last chance of discovering the papers in question is to make a minute and exhaustive search in the panelings of Abington Abbey, Northamptonshire, the old house of Lady BARNARD, who was the granddaughter and last lineal descendant of the great poet. Should the investigation result successfully, it would prove the literary event of the century.

FOR several weeks past the puddlers of the great rolling mills and iron works of the Milwaukee Iron Company, at Bay View, Wisconsin, have been out on a strike in consequence of the prices having gone below the contract scale, and the proprietors refusing to advance; but an arrangement has now been effected by which the men returned to work yesterday. This strike caused a large number of other operatives to be thrown out of employment for a considerable time. These puddlers were obliged to go out in consequence of the action of the Puddlers' Union in connection with the lock-out here.

THE Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia has decided that the new Constitution of this State abolishes all offices for the inspection of merchandise, as existing at the time of its adoption. The question arose in the case of the Inspector of Leather, who was appointed before the adoption of the Constitution, but whose term of office, as fixed by the laws under which he was appointed, has not yet expired. Judge ALLISON, who delivered the opinion of the court (No. 1), decides that the laws under which inspectors of merchandise were appointed, are not in harmony with the Constitution, and are therefore declared void by it.

THE Chicago Athenæum announces, through the *Tribune* of that city, a new and excellent feature in its good work. It will provide, on successive Monday evenings, beginning next week, a course of twelve ten-cent lectures on Art and Science topics. This is an excellent idea, and worthy of general imitation. In England, among the working classes, hardly any power is so great as that wielded by such men as Professors HUXLEY, CLIFFORD and TYNDALL. The lectures of the latter are always eagerly listened to, and if Professor HUXLEY had time to devote to such labor, there is scarcely a town in the country that would not try and persuade him to visit it and deliver lectures on the most abstruse scientific subjects.

THE disturbed condition of the anthracite coal trade in this State has given a marked impetus to the use of coke in the metallurgy of iron, experiments having fully demonstrated that the density of good coke will enable it to compare favorably with anthracite coal in bearing the burden in furnace and in sustaining a high blast pressure. The anthracite supply is drawn from three small basins, whose aggregate area is only four hundred and seventy-two square miles, while the coke flows from the great Appalachian field, whose area in this State alone is over twelve thousand square miles. It is evident that coke is destined to perform a most important part in the adjustment of the fuel supply as related to furnace operations and the metallurgy of iron.

THE President and Cabinet have unanimously decided *not* to re-open the FITZ JOHN PORTER case, and their decision should meet with general approval. PORTER pretended that he had discovered new evidence which, on a rehearing, would modify, if it did not change, the verdict against him; but an examination of his new evidence has not sufficed to convince the Cabinet that he was harshly dealt with by the court-martial which condemned him. The evidence before that court was too clear to be mistaken, and it left no doubt of the fact that PORTER deliberately refused to move his Army Corps as he was commanded to do by General POPE, and that his disobedience was prompted by a desire to compass, thereby, the defeat of POPE. He was a wilful traitor, and must bear the brand of his treason.

WHEREVER, North or South, the Democrats have succeeded in obtaining possession of patronage to bestow, the lion's share has almost invariably been given to those who, during the rebellion, were best known as enemies of the National Government and through-going sympathizers with, if not open field fighters for treason. Here is the ingenuous admission which the Atlanta correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* makes concerning the universal preference for ex-rebel soldiers prevailing in the South. He says: "A splendid war record made GORDON United States Senator, just as it earned the same reward for RANSOM, in North Carolina, and in Missouri and Virginia preferred COCKRELL and WITHERS, comparatively *novi homines*, to SCHURZ and HUNTER. 'War records' have proven too much for the old politicians to resist, save in the case of Tennessee. GORDON being provided for, COLQUITT appears to be next in the line of succession in Georgia to such honors as the Confederate soldier sentiment can help its favorites." Is there no lesson to be learned from these suggestive and frankly conceded facts?

THE falling off in the national revenue in March alarms some of the Eastern papers, and that class of people who cannot see beyond the end of their noses predict now it is that the new tax law will prove a failure. It proves just the reverse, according to the judgment of those who can see further ahead. The probability that the tax law would pass, and that the ten per cent. reduction in the tariff would be removed, very naturally stimulated the production of articles subject to taxation up to the very day the increase took place, as well as the importation of foreign goods so long as they were subject to the old rates of duty. The increase in production and importation thus brought about has legitimately caused a falling off, since; and we have no doubt the Secretary of the Treasury made allowances for that fact in his estimates. This falling off will continue for several months, and will last until the supplies brought in under the old laws are exhausted. The new rates of taxation will then begin to show their effects; and until then, their operations cannot be fully seen. That the new law will, when it comes into operation, produce an increase in the revenue, we do not for a moment doubt; but in the transition period from the old to the new, a falling off in the revenue was inevitable, as well as unavoidable. It is impossible to change from a lower to a higher rate of taxation without producing just such results as are now being felt.

THE New York *Bulletin* has been examining the returns of iron and steel rails exported from Great Britain during January and February of the present year, and finds that the exports to Russia had fallen off from 6,524 tons in 1874 to 1,023 tons in 1875, and to the United States from 16,078 tons to 4,981 tons. The three countries taking the largest quantities of rails in 1875 were Australia, 15,439 tons; Peru, 8,052 tons; and British India, 7,306 tons. The total exported falls off from 96,311 tons in 1874 to 71,257 tons in 1875, and the declared value from $6,552,100 to $3,689,725. A comparison with the corresponding period in 1873 would be still more disadvantageous. For the two months of January and February, of the latter year, the total value of the exports of British produce and manufactures of all kinds was $203,150,000; for the same months in 1874 it was $188,500,000, and for the same period in 1875 it had still further declined to $173,500,000. On the whole, the condition of trade in that country is evidently more discouraging than in this. Upwards of a hundred thousand miners are still out of work in South Wales, and the parish relief they have been receiving during the past winter carries with it quite a serious penalty, inasmuch as no one who has been in receipt of such relief for two years preceding an election can exercise his rights as a voter. The Government Commission some time ago appointed to inquire into the laws controlling the relations of capital and labor have presented their report, which is of a somewhat colorless character. It is recommended that a breach of contract on the part of the workman shall be punished in the same way as a similar breach on the part of the employer, and that the summary jurisdiction in cases of intimidation which is now given to the judge shall be withdrawn and the cases heard by a jury. The benefit to the workman to be derived from this change is, however, more imaginary than real, for until the laws concerning juries are amended, it is clear that they will be almost always composed of persons drawn from a class which has but little sympathy with working men, and whose prejudices are all strongly marked against the rights of labor.

SENATOR BOOTH, of California, it is said, has expressed an intense feeling of disgust at the United States Senate, and ANDY JOHNSON is likewise nauseated with the poor reception accorded to his speech. BOOTH came East with the conviction on his mind that, because he overcame a powerful combination in his canvass for the Senatorship, the whole country was longing to hail him as the coming man for President; and, after getting to Washington, he found that he was nothing more than any other United States Senator. There was no anxiety to see him: there was no crowd to hail him; and there was no one, apparently, desirious of making him President. It was a terrible fall, for a man who had his expectations set so high; and as he found himself, at the close of the session, voting with the Democrats, it is not to be wondered at that he should feel miserable and turn up his nose in disgust. As misery loves company, however, he may take some comfort from the fact that ANDY JOHNSON feels just as bad as he does, and is just as much ashamed of having to consort with BOOTH, as BOOTH can be at having to consort with him.

Both of these unfortunate men have had their heads turned by being named for the Presidency. Neither is content to be a mere United States Senator, and each wants to fill GRANT'S place. JOHNSON is idietic enough to believe that the Democrats will take him as their candidate; and BOOTH imagines that, because the Grangers of California helped to elect him to the Senate, they ought to be able to lead them into the Presidency. But, as they show no signs of having any such purpose, and all the world around him is blissfully ignorant of the fact that there *is* such a man as BOOTH, he has not only his defeated ambition to annoy him, but his wounded self-love to pain him. If the sycophancy which always breaks out when a man begins to rise in the world, had not tempted this man with the vision of the White House, he might have made himself useful as a member of the Senate; but now, the Presidential maggot will soon eat away what little brain he has left.

THE weekly publication of the New York bank statements was suspended from September 20 to December 6, 1872, on account of the financial panic then prevailing, and the statements for the missing ten weeks have never since been published. The *Financial Chronicle* now gives them to the public; and, as a reminiscence, they are worthy of attention. We append the figures from July 12th to the end of December, 1873:

	Loans.	Specie.	L. T. Notes.	Circulation.
July 12	$284,174,000	$17,000,000	$18,000,000	$18,000,000
July 19	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
July 26	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
August 2	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
August 9	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
August 16	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
August 23	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
August 30	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
September 6	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
September 13	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
September 20	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
September 27	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
October 4	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
October 11	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
October 18	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
October 25	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
November 1	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
November 8	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
November 15	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
November 22	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
November 29	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
December 6	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
December 13	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
December 20	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
December 27	284,174,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000

These figures tell their own story. Legal tenders reduced from forty-eight millions to six; specie from thirty-four millions to ten; and deposits from two hundred and thirty-nine millions to one hundred and fifty. Here were one hundred and fifty millions drawn out of the banks in the course of a few weeks; and although these millions soon got back again, yet, for the time being, they tell a terrible tale of that lack of confidence which nearly every one felt at that time.

THE London correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* throws some very cold water on the religious crusade of Messrs. MOODY and SANKEY, as also does the correspondent of the New York *Times*. The name of "American services" is given to their meetings, and the plan of artificially stimulated religious interest is condemned as an invention peculiar to the sensational American mind. But as Mr. VARLEY is engaged in a similar occupation in this country, having come from England for that express purpose, it is evident that the system cannot be definitely accredited to any nationality, and that the objections urged against the morbid religious excitement created by the American revivalists in England may hold good as applied to like developments in this country. It is evident that the public interest in religion was never greater than to-day. Among the latest of the stirring religious items which now constitute a part of the regular news from round the world is that of the missionary prostrate in the hut of a Mongolian convert, rejoicing during his delirium over the prospect of saying mass on the banks of the Amoor, and that of another priest who made a journey on foot five hundred miles through Newfoundland forests, carrying the Gospel to a little colony of French fishermen. Few will deny that revival seasons generally leave something of permanent good, but the success of "professional" revivalists depends so largely on the production of intense emotional excitement, that many of the "conversions" attending their labors are almost as likely to be due to the operation of nervous as of moral forces and agencies.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The sex can now practice law in Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Maine.

The Ohio manufacturing districts are reported to promise revived activity.

San Francisco, it is claimed, is progressing faster than any other city in the Union.

Progress. Women are now eligible to election as school officers throughout Wisconsin.

The largest mixed college in the country is Oberlin. Of its 1,330 students 635 are women.

There is a quickening of the sap in the tree, and of life at the roots of the grass. It is Spring.

It looks as though nature was going to wash her face and put on new clothes for the spring.

The employment of women clerks has been sanctioned by the officials of the British Treasury.

The growing crops throughout California are reported on all hands as being in magnificent condition.

What a pity we couldn't have a little of one of those Eastern freshets turned on for half a day or so in our streets!

Speaker Blaine's ivory mallet weighed two pounds when he got it, and four ounces when he walked away with it.

The spelling mania must have a name, and a classical one, too. How will this do? *Cacoethes literas in syllabas colligendi.*

The total British production of pig iron last year is estimated at 6,000,000 tons, against 6,500,000 in 1873, 6,700,000 in 1872, and 6,000,000 in 1871.

In using weak arguments and strong epithets the *Post* makes as great a mistake as the landlady who furnishes weak tea and strong butter.

The Winnebago Indians want to obtain from Government a dissolution of their tribal relations, in order that they may become citizens.

It is generally admitted in Delaware that the peach buds have received no injury to impair the crop, so that the prospect now is good for a fine yield.

The 20th of May is the centennial of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and steps have been taken in North Carolina to celebrate the event.

A new industry is rapidly developing in Russia—the obtaining of petroleum. This mineral oil is found in enormous quantities in the trans-Caucasus.

Julia K. Sutherland has been appointed Commissioner of Deeds by the Governor of California, the first instance of a woman having been appointed to that office.

Every first-class European city has an aquarium, or is about to build one, and New York proposes to set the same example for the New World at an early day.

London beats us. Not only has it a larger and more conglomerate population than any other civilized city in the world, but it has actually more thieves than Chicago.

That is a noble saying of Governor Chamberlain, of South Carolina—that he dreads, no failure but the failure to see his duty, and no loss but the loss of courag to do it.

Alas! when will that Beecher plague be over? Like the frogs of Egypt, it is in every house and in the "houses of the servants, in the ovens, and in the kneading-troughs."

"He that ruleth his own spirit is greater than he that taketh a city." Although Landis could make an approximately model town he could not make himself a model man.

Compared with last season, the books of the different Atlantic steamship companies at New York show a large decrease in the number of passengers, and it is thought that travel will be light this year.

Freights in all the great commercial ports rule very low, in consequence of the superabundance of shipping. In Calcutta alone, at the latest dates, there were 37,000 tons of vessels holding back for paying rates.

It now turns out that the Spanish grant of that large tract of land near Pensacola, Florida, to our Government was fraudulent, and that that town has no right to the water-front it has been using all these years.

The discovery that the murderer of Mrs. Bingham, of Boston, has been three times in the Massachusetts State prison, does not speak well for the reformatory character of those penal institutions of that Commonwealth.

A few days ago a Kentucky colored man bought a catfish, and in dressing it found growing in the flesh of the fish a separate tissue in the form of a human hand, about as large as that of an infant a year old.

The first piece of gold found which raised such a revolution on the Pacific coast is still to be seen. Its value is between four and five dollars. It resembles a piece of spruce gum spit out on the mouth of a school girl.

The police have recently seized $150 worth of liquor from a druggist at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, that "model village" which Hepworth Dixon spoke about in one of his letters, where he couldn't get a drop for love or money.

The first locomotive used in the United States was the "John Bull," imported from England by the Albany and Schenectady Railroad in 1830. The "John Bull" is still alive. It is kept as a curiosity at the Albany Iron Works near Troy.

The wool interest, which has been making rapid strides in California, is constantly strengthened by the importation of thoroughbred sheep. So large are the demands for blooded sheep that many breeding farms have already been established.

Among the incidents of the late terrible Georgia cyclone was the destruction of a house, one inmate of which was a little child, who was blown into a cupboard. of all the furniture in the house that was the only piece not broken into kindling wood.

PERSONAL.

Ex-Senator John Scott, of this State, with his wife and family, arrived at the Grand National Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida, on the 24th inst.

The Emperor of Brazil has been elected corresponding member of the section of navigation and geography by the French *Academie des Sciences*, the acknowledged greatest scientific body in the world.

A French paper announces the recent discovery of various autograph letters of King Henri IV. in the Chateau de Leran, where they had laid for nearly three centuries, in a lumber-room, among an enormous heap of charters, edicts, and letters from illustrious persons, going back to remote periods of French history.

The latest instance of our intimate connection with Brazil was furnished last week by the sailing of Dr. Morris N. Kohn, of New York, who has been appointed Chief Engineer of the Fire Department in Rio Janeiro, under a decree from the Emperor, Don Pedro II., and who has taken with him to Brazil the first instalment of American fire apparatus.

Apropos of the Greville Memoirs, the Queen has given the editor a hint that if he brings out the fourth volume of a work that reflects, with all the severity of truth, upon her royal progenitors and predecessors, she will be compelled to remove him from the office of Registrar of the Privy Council, a berth worth $7,500 a year for life, if he behaves himself.

The Sultan of Turkey employs in his palace 6,000 servants of both sexes. He pays and feeds 300 cooks, 300 gardeners, 500 coachmen, and 600 persons to do odds and ends about the house. To feed these people and their hangers-on, 1,200 sheep and 2,000 fowls are killed every day, and 60,000 francs are expended for lights. No wonder they call him the Sick Man of Europe.

The appointment of Clerk of the English Privy Council, vacant by the death of Sir Arthur Helps, will probably be bestowed upon Mr. Theodore Martin, the well known writer, who is a great favorite with the Queen, and is the author of the "Life of the Prince Consort," the first volume of which was recently published. He is the husband of Miss Helen Faucit, the well known actress.

Nellie Grant-Sartoris will return to England in a few weeks. There is something very pathetic in this young girl—barely twenty—going away from her mother and the home influences which have surrounded her all her life, to associations comparatively unknown, just because her child must be born on English soil, so as to fulfill the conditions of the law of inheritance. It is rumored that Mrs. Grant is going with her and we hope she will.

It is reported on good authority that Judge Peyton, of the District Court of Osage county, Kansas, will not recognize the settlement of the Pomeroy case as agreed upon by the parties who distributed the historic $7,000. It is given out that County Attorney Vance, of Shawnee county, is not recognized as the prosecuting attorney in Judge Peyton's court, and therefore "Old Pom" must stand his trial as well as the loss of his money.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MALLACCA, INDO-CHINA AND CHINA: Or, Ten Years' Travels, Adventures and Residence Abroad. By J. Thomson, F. R. G. S., author of "Illustrations of China and Its People." Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

A strong and growing interest prevails to learn more and more relating to China, partly because of the introduction of Chinese labor into this country, and the curiosity to learn everything of the inner workings of a nationality which are problems unsolved. The object of the distinguished author appears to have been to give a true picture of China and its inhabitants, however unpleasant the view might prove. The opening of China and Japan to travelers has resulted in our seeing an inside view of a system of civil government without a parallel. With the gradual introduction of Christianity into Japan and China, a brighter era of civilization is dawning. In the process of time many things now in doubt, and showing the power of self-will in human nature, will be removed, and the merits of the great traveler's researches be appreciated. The illustrations are profuse, and taken from the author's own sketches and photographs. It belongs to that class of healthful and instructive books which deserve a wide circulation. Young persons will find the history to be flavored with romance. Like all of Harpers' publications, this volume wears a sumptuous and holiday look. It is a capital book for the library and social circle.

THE GREVILLE MEMOIRS. A Journal of the Reigns of King George IV. and King William IV. By the late Charles C. F. Greville, Clerk of the Council to those Sovereigns. Edited by Henry Reeve, Registrar of the Privy Council. Complete in Two Volumes. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

This work is a remarkable one and unique in many respects, as it gives a history of persons who occupied a conspicuous place in the world, and it also presents an inner view of things which the people rarely enjoy. Mr. Greville held close relations with civil and royal life, for a period of forty years, embracing a large portion of the reign of Queen Victoria and the entire dynasties of George IV. and William IV. He had rare opportunities to witness scenes in court circles, and used his position well as these memoirs amply demonstrate. The author has dealt with this very delicate subject with rare discrimination, and though there are many scenes and incidents which appear strange to the reader of this period, they were regarded in that age in a different light. In dealing with some of the living actors the author has placed himself at a disadvantage. A work, however, of this kind is invaluable because it is associated with the great epoch of the age and of that great kingdom. This is the only complete history, and the publishers deserve the thanks of the public for this excellent edition. The sale, as we expected, has been very large and likely to continue so for some time.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION, assembled at Belfast. By John Tyndall, F. R. S., President. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

Our readers are familiar with the great issues involved in this remarkable address, and of the fierce opposition aroused against its views from some of the first minds of the age. This small pamphlet was revised by the author, with a second preface, replying to his critics, and an appended article on "Scientific Materialism."

VATICANISM: An Answer to Reproofs and Replies. By the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M. P. author of "The Vatican Decrees in their Bearing on Civil Allegiance." For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

In this remarkable pamphlet, says high authority, Mr. Gladstone maintains with force and clearness his original assertions in regard to the radical changes which the Vatican Decrees have made in the civil and religious claims of the Romish Church; considers the contents and authority of the Syllabus; the revived claims of the Pope to the deposing power, and the use of force; the warrant of allegiance according to the Vatican; the immoral nature and condition of Papal infallibility decreed in the Vatican Council; and other important questions involved in the controversy. Mr. Gladstone's former pamphlet had an enormous circulation in England and this country, and the present one, in which he returns to the attack with the keenest weapons of argument and illustration, will meet with a still larger demand.

BOOK-KEEPING SIMPLIFIED. By D. B. Waggoner. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is a most excellent hand-book, giving all the rules of the double-entry system of book-keeping, briefly, clearly, and concisely explained, with valuable rules and tables for counting-room use. Persons familiar with the elaborate details of the works, sending them, need not confuse the student, especially if seeking information without the aid of a teacher, will welcome this manual, which appears to be all that is claimed, and we therefore commend it to our readers.

HOW HE WON HER, being the "Sequel to Fair Play." By Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth. Published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is the third volume of the new edition of the works of this popular author. The characters appear strongly drawn, and it is one of the best stories of Mrs. Southworth. The writings of this author are so well known, that it is sufficient to name a work from her pen.

THE OLD HOUSE ON BRIAR HILL. By Isabella Grant Meredith. Published by Dodd & Mead, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

We venture to suggest to lovers of a high-toned romance, wherein each of the chief characters is drawn with exquisite grace, to get the "Old House on Briar Hill." It is thoroughly domestic and is richly flavored with the delights of a happy hearth-stone. There is a delightful story of love running through its pages. Its moral tone and beautiful pictures of the inner elements of domestic felicity, render it worthy of any household, and it will leave no bad influence in its train.

THE WONDERFUL LIFE. By Hesba Stretton, author of "Lost Gip," etc. Published by Dodd & Mead, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

There is a fragrance in this work, sketching the life and death of the Lord Jesus Christ, that leaves it traces in the heart of the reader. It is arranged in a form that gives a vivid picture of the incidents of his life narrated in the four Gospels. Many who have not the time, or helps at hand, can get a clear conception of the "Wonderful Life," of our Lord, without much effort. It is written in a sweet spirit and embodies all the late views of learned men. The narrative of the book is admirably set forth. Line style is simple, direct and easily understood. It is a capital work for the Sunday school, and we hope it may have a wide circulation.

WILDMOOR. A Novel. By Florence Burckett. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

Lovers of a story, quaint and old fashioned, strikingly original and fresh, will find "Wildmoor" of this type. The scenes are laid in the lake country of Old England, and are pictured with a degree of enthusiasm which makes the romance captivating and entertaining. This love of the beautiful in nature is a fragrant feature of the novel. The characters are cleverly drawn and quite natural, and the author evidently writes with considerable enthusiasm.

NATHANIEL VANDERLIN: Priest and Man. By Frederick MacDonald, author of "The Iliad of the East," etc. Published by Asa K. Butts & Co., New York. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is a strange weird-like work, revealing the earnest cravings of a devoted mind to make the world better. There are some charming passages with a delicacy of sentiment and elegance of thought, which fascinate the reader, but there is a lack of unity, and views are advanced and reflections on theological tenets, that indicate are morbid tendency of mind. Running through the book there is a delightful love story, which will attract the reader's attention, while withholding approval to some of the vagaries that appear in several instances. There is a sincerity of motive apparent that the reader is forced to the belief that the author has chosen the wrong stand point in viewing moral questions.

A RAMBLING STORY. By Mary Cowden Clarke. Published by Roberts Brothers, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

It is certainly a well named romance, as the chief characters are of a rambling sort, judging from the striking episodes which occured in the love scrapes of the hero, Sidney Hamilton, a young artist. Passing over the romance of the deserted cottage and the abrupt termination, our hero falls desperately in love with an unknown feminine at a park in London, and he vows to marry this unknown or no one. Traveling from place to place he finally succeeds in finding her in Italy and confesses his love, while Lady Gertrude makes confession of her love, thinking him an other person. They are privately married, and after a sad mishap of his wife being spirited away through a wicked noble who had long loved Lady Gertrude, she is finally rescued by her husband, and ever afterwards their lives were serene until old age. It is finely written, and just what might be expected of the gifted author.

THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE. By Miss Eliza A. Dupuy, author of "Why Did He Marry Her?" etc. Published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

In this novel we have presented in glowing colors some love episodes and an ill-sorted marriage, with its dark shades as well as bright tints. It is a story that is highly wrought, and presents a variety of characters, which are overdrawn in some instances. The author has written so many books that she is quite a favorite with many lovers of fiction.

FLOSS SILVERTON; or, The Master's Little Handmaid. By Agnes Giberne, Author of "Curate's Home," etc. Published by R. Carter & Brothers, New York. For sale by W. W. Waters, Pittsburgh.

In this delightfully told narrative, we have sketched the sisterly love of an orphaned girl for her brother, who displays in her simple words the true marks of young discipleship to Christ. It is a story that is calculated to do good to the hearts of young people. Bound up with this story is another, "Pieces of Silver," by the author of "Whiter than Snow." It is a capital story for the Sunday school library or family circle.

IN THE CAMARGO. By Emily Bowles. Published by Loring, Boston. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh.

Lovers of a genuine love story, without "sensationism," or the *gush* which abounds in some of the novels of the day, will enjoy this romance. The scene is laid in the south of France, and the aim of the story is to illustrate man's fickleness. Of course, women are not fickle! It forms one of "Loring's Select Novels," in paper covers.

THE BLOSSOMING OF AN ALOE. A Novel. By Mrs. Cashel Hoey, Author of "A Golden Sorrow," &c. Published by Harper Brothers, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

According to English critics this novel is a very effectively conceived tale. Some of the characters are painted with great force and delicacy. From a cursory reading we think this view is not overdrawn. Also for sale by R. S. Davis & Co.

VIVIAN BERTRAM; or, A Wife's Honor. By George W. M. Reynolds. Author of "The Court of London," etc. Published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia. For sale by J. R. Weldin & Co., Pittsburgh. Paper cover, 75 cents.

This is a sequel to "Isabella Vincent." The volume unravels a scheme of wickedness which is appalling in the records of aristocratic infamy.

STATE NEWS.

Allentown has a singing mouse.

A Reading man has worn the same cloak for thirty-three winters.

Seventy persons have joined the Cotton street Reformed church in Reading, during a revival there.

A dealer in Erie advertises: "Carocene oil comity 15 cents per galon," and another a few doors above announces "Caned fruit," as one of his articles in trade.

The latest thing out in the way of social gatherings is a "paper festival," one of which is to be held in North East, Erie county. Each one who attends is expected to contribute old papers or other printed matter.

Rev. L. C. Rutter, who in the spring will retire from the pastorate of Chestnut Level (Pa.) Presbyterian church, has been minister there for forty years. In consideration of his services some of his friends and parishioners have secured an annuity for him. His successor has not yet been chosen.

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Seventh—Freedom from Expansion, Strains and Leaks.

Eighth—Effective circulation attained by the < tubes and large returns.

Eclipse Steam Generators are adapted to heavy or light service, high or low pressure, or steady and unequal work.

The Castings are made of Semi-Steel; the Tubes are lap-welded; the double baffle of which gives a rapid and powerful circulation of water for removing sediment and a perfect means of provision for expansion and contraction. The Sectional Form allows the Boiler to be increased, diminished or divided without damage to parts, and the improved Lock-Nut does away with caulking, packing or gaskets.

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O'HARA BOILER WORKS,

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STEAM BOILERS, OIL TANKS, STILLS, AGITATORS, SALT PANS, GASOMETERS, SETTING AND FURNISHING LIMENEYS, BRICHEN FIRE BEDS, &c.,

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Wm. B. Scaife & Sons,

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Accounts of Banks, Bankers, Corporations, Firms & Individuals Received. Certificates of Deposit Issued with Interest.

Collections Made at Lowest Rates. Investment Securities a Specialty. Governments, Gold, Stocks and Bonds bought and sold on Commission. Draw Bills on London, Ireland and the Continent.

ROBERT ARTHURS, President.

GEO. F. HUFF, of Greensburg, Vice Pres.

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The Tradesmen's National Bank

HAS REMOVED TO ITS

New Banking Rooms,

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Where its Officers will be pleased to see all its old customers and such new ones as may favor it with their patronage.

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OF PITTSBURGH,

NO. 33 FIFTH AVENUE.

CAPITAL STOCK - - $500,000

J. W. COOK.....President.

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CENTRAL BANK,

No. 47 BANK BLOCK, Pittsburgh.

CAPITAL.....$100,000.

Bank of Discount and Deposit.

Stockholders Individually Liable.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON TIME DEPOSITS.

Collections made on all the principal cities of the United States and Canadas.

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ESTABLISHED 1855.

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BANKERS,

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Dealers in Pittsburgh Bonds and all other investment securities.

Loans negotiated on marketable collaterals at current rates.

Deposits of Banks and Bankers received, subject to check at sight. Interest allowed according to agreement.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, March 29, 1875.

There is no reason to doubt that there is a fuller employment of money just at present, pending the April settlements, for as rates are being asked and paid without demur. But the market, however, is by no means active, and our best manufacturing and mercantile houses are making very little commercial paper. As to the immediate prospect there seems to be a difference of opinion in financial circles, and among those whose business gives them an opportunity to feel the pulse of the market. Some of our money dealers are looking for a more active market and higher rates, and are disposed to withhold funds for the present, while others take a widely different view, seeing nothing in the general condition of business to indicate any further advance.

The banks generally seem to regard the future as rather uncertain, but are disposed to improve their opportunities as they arise. In local stocks there are but few transactions reported, and the only reliable figures are those reported at Mellwaine's stock rooms, where the weekly auction sales go a fair criterion of the strength of securities. Sales of Pan Handle 7's are reported to-day at 78, and these bonds seem to strengthen each day, notwithstanding the unfavorable construction given to the action of the Board of Directors in ordering a ten million income loan to meet current expenses and interest on existing mortgages.

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE,
BANKERS & BROKERS, No. 7 NEW STREET,
NEW YORK, March 27, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The volume of business to-day has been enormous, we think unparalleled, since the "panic." The London market reflected the higher price of Erie here last Thursday, and opened at 29¾, as against 29¼ Thursday; in consequence our market opened excited and buoyant and 32, as against 29¼. Joe Dandy sold to 34 on a business of over 50,000 shares in the first half hour, and the stock was actively used in the main strong throughout the day, subject to slight reactions, and closed at nearly the highest of the day. We think that there is a very large short interest in this stock in London, and the large holders have combined to squeeze them. It is also reported that proposals have been made to unite this road with the Michigan Central, Lake Shore and others, with the Union and Central Pacifics in the through route from New York to San Francisco, and the Southern Pacific. This will account for the activity in these various stocks for the past few days, and those directly interested predict still higher prices; indeed, ten or fifteen per cent. is talked of as nearly certain.

The transactions in Pacific Mail have also been very heavy, without, however, advancing the price, as now, to-day, the stock has been between 44¾ and 44⅞. We think from appearances that advantage has been taken of the other market to unload a large amount of this stock the proceeds probably going into Union Pacific and Erie.

Union Pacific again recorded a large advance, touching 63¾ amid much excitement.

The Hannibal and St. Joseph stocks partook of the general buoyancy, and closed ½ to ¾ per cent. over four per cent. We hear that a combination has been formed to put these stocks much higher.

Western Union and Northwestern surprised many by their firmness in sympathy with the other market being, as on Thursday, almost entirely neglected. Gold was steady at 110¼. Money easy at 4 per cent.

Yours truly, TRASK & STONE.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

March 29, 1875.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	110¼	110¼	110¼	110¼	110¼	110¼
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	117½	117½	117½	117½	117½	117½
5-20's, 1862, coup	117¾	...	117¾	117¾	...	...
5-20's, 1864, coup	117¾	...	117¾	117¾	...	...
5-20's, 1865, coup	119	...	119¼	119¼	...	...
5-20's, 1865, new, coup	119¼	...	119¼	119¼	...	...
5-20's, 1867, coup	120	...	120	120	...	...
5-20's, 1867, registered	120	...	120	120	...	...
10-40's	114	...	114¼	114¼	...	...
10-40's, coupon	115	...	115	115	...	...
Currency 6's	118½	...	118½	118½	...	...
New 5 per cents	109½	...	109½	109½	...	...
Western Union Tel	76	76¼	76	76	76¼	76
Quicksilver	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pacific Mail	43¾	44¼	43¾	44	44	44
Panama	114	...	114	...	...	...
Adams Express	103	...	103	...	...	...
Wells-Fargo Exp's	63	...	63	...	...	...
American Express	60	...	60½	...	...	...
United States Exp's	...	...	63	...	...	100¾
New York Central	106¾	...	106¾	...	...	106¾
Erie	28¾	29¼	28¾	29¼	29¼	29¼
Michigan Central	90	...	90	...	...	90
Michigan Southern	74¾	75¼	74¾	75¼	74	74
Illinois Central	...	...	92	...	...	...
Cleve. and Pitts	91	...	91	...	...	91
Chicago and Northw'n	46¾	47¼	45¾	45¾	45¾	46
Do preferred	59½	59¾	58	58	58	58
Rock Island	88	88	87	87	88½	88½
St. Paul, common	...	...	38	38	38	38½
Do preferred	...	...	74	74	75	76
Wabash, common	14¾	14¾	14	14	15¾	16
Fort Wayne	97	...	97	...	97	97
Ohio and Mississippi	28	...	28	...	29	29½
Union Pacific	62	63¾	63¾	63¾	63	63
Atlantic	29	...	29	...	29	29
Hannibal & St. Jos	29	...	28	...	28	28
Do preferred	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pittsburgh	...	...	...	...	15	...
Toledo	...	...	64	...	65	...
Tennessee, new	...	...	31	...	30½	...
South Carolinas, Ap.	...	...	31	...	30½	...
South Carolinas, July	...	...	31	...	30½	...
Missouri 6's	...	...	93	...	...	...

—The eighth annual report of the Commissioner of Railroads and Telegraphs in Ohio, including returns from the railroad of the state for the year ending June 30, 1774, shows a length of main line and branches in the State at the close of the year of 5,707 miles, an increase of 211.47 miles during the year, against 376.35 miles the previous year. There are 1,141.52 miles of second track and sidings, which is 97.64 more than the previous year. The cost of the roads in the State is reported at $368,684,952, which is at the rate of $61,422 per mile. The stock and funded and other floating debts of these roads is greater by 16% per cent. than the reported cost, or $67,782 per mile. Of the whole amount $150,547,367 is stock, $138,838,359 funded debt, and $78,586,811 floating debts. The latter item should not properly cover cost of construction, and may be balanced by assets other than railroads and their equipment, is at the rate of nearly $3,300 per mile. During the year the roads carried 15,487,294 passengers—19¾ per cent. more than the preceding year, and 29,193,455 tons of freight, which is 12½ per cent. less. The passenger mileage (the Marietta, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, and the Painesville and Youngstown not reporting) was 621,487,601, giving an average journey of 41.55, for which the average receipt was 2.572 cents per mile. Of the total tonnage, 30.56 per cent. was through. On thirty-one of the thirty-four lines the tonnage mileage is reported, amounting to 3,317,262,979, and the average receipt per ton per mile is given as 1.332 cents—lower than for the whole railroad system of any other State in America. The proportion of earnings of the railroads in Ohio was $37,177,130, which is $966,302, or 2.8 per cent. less than was returned in 1873-74, on 21 miles less of road. The working expenses were $27,063,574, which is $236,959 less than the previous year and the net earnings were $10,113,556, or 7 per cent. less, and less than 4 per cent. on the cost of the roads.

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	55¾	...
Pennsylvania Central scrip	102½	...
Reading, sales	...	...
Old Creek, sales	10¾	...
Lehigh Valley, sales	39½	...
Central Transportation Co	44½	46½
Empire Transportation Co	54¾	...
Phila., Clin. and St. L., R., sales	78	...

Chamber of Commerce.

	1874-75.	1873-74.
Hogs packed	5,547,149	5,339,910
Average weight	265,079	268,269
Average yield, lard	24.325	23.597
Average cost per 100 lbs	$4.62	$4.247
Gross receipts	$26,719,250	$23,370,260
Gross, INC.		

General Merchandise.

ALES—We quote: X $6 00 @ barrel; XX $ 00 @ barrel; India pale $7 00 @ barrel; Bass Ale, English ale, in kilderkins of 72 gallons, $31 00@33 00 barrels; 41 gallons, $20 00@21 00; kinds, 36 gallons, $22 50@25 00; in cases, 4 dozen bottles, $30 75. William Younger's India pale ale, in cases of eight dozen bottles, $ 00@ 00 per dozen; Robert Younger's sparkling ale, $ 00@ 00 per dozen; Guinness' stouts, bottled, $ 00@ 00 per dozen; Gunther's and Dunnebier's ginger ale, $2 75 @ dozen; Gunther's, Dunnebier's and Co.'s ginger ale $1 75 @ dozen.

ALCOHOL AND BRANDIES—We quote alcohol at $2 30@2 40 @ gallon. Brandies—Pale and dark brandy at $1 18@1 20 @ gallon.

ASHES—Soda ashes refined, $4 00@4 50 @ cwt. for high test; common $3 50@3 75; crystal $5 00@5 50; sal soda $1 50@1 75; bicarbonate soda $3 00@3 50; nitrate of soda $ 00@ 00; Russian Eagle Potash—Quotations are for 1, 2 cans $1 50 @ dozen; 3 cans $1 80 @ dozen; 4 cans $2 00; 5 cans $2 50; 10 cans $5 00; 10 boxes 80 @ $ 00; 25 boxes $ 00 @ $ 00; steady and demand good.

BROOMS AND BROOM CORN—Broom corn is firm at the late advances. Choice, fine, hurl quoting at 11@12c; medium, 9@10c; good to choice stalk brush, 6@8c; inferior brush, 4@5c. Brooms are steady and in sympathy. The following are makers' prices: No. 2 common, $3 00; No. 3 hurl, $3 50; No. 4 hurl, $4 25; No. 5, $4 75; No. 6, $4 50; No. 7, $4 75; No. 8 do, $5 00; No. 4 do, $5 00; fancy parlor, $5 50; extra parlor, $6 00; whisk brooms, $1 00@1 25 @ dozen; 2-50, whisks, fancy, $1 75@2 00; toy brooms, $1 75@2 00.

COAL AND COKE—Trade for Connellsville coke is somewhat improved by the demand from the Eastern Penna. furnaces caused by the stoppage of the anthracite mines. Prices are steady at $2 50@2 60 @ ton, delivered on the board in Pittsburgh. Anthracite coal is steady, at $7 00 @ ton, delivered, in car loads on track $6 50 @ ton.

CEMENT—Louisville hydraulic cement $2 00@2 25 @ bbl; Phœnix hydraulic cement $1 75@2 00 @ bbl; Clarksville hydraulic cement $1 75; Fremont $1 65@1 75; Eastern white lime $1 90@2 00 per barrel; Portland plasters—French $4 00@4 50 @ barrel; Eastern $2 25@2 75 per barrel; Michigan $3 25@3 50; Western brands $3 00@3 25.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Quotations are given at $7 25@8 00 for best quality; second quality $7 50 @7 75.

HEMP—We quote Kentucky rough at $100 00 @105 00; dressed, $ 00@ 00; Manilla, $ 00@ 00.

PAPERS—Baling paper 44@48c @ lb, as to quality; manilla 70@12c; hardware papers 6@13c; bag paper 4@6c; straw paper 1½@2c; straw news 2@3c; tag news 2@3c; tag news 12½@15c; book papers 14 @ 30c.

RISING SUN STOVE POLISH—Sales made at $6 00 @ gross.

SODA—Caustic soda 4@4½c @ lb.

SODIUM—Cotton at 21½@23c @ lb; and woolen at 15@.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 6 dozen, $6 00; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $5 00.

SALT—Car lots, @ barrel, $1 60; jobbing lots, $1 80@1 85.

WOODEN WARE—We quote Pittsburgh make as follows: Two-hooped buckets, per doz, $1 90; three-hooped buckets, per doz, $2 50; painted tubs, three hoops, per doz, $8 00; No. 2 tubs, per doz, $7 00; No. 1 tubs, per doz, $6 00; washboards, patent crimp, per doz, $2 75; washboards, common, per doz, $2 25; clothes-pins, round head, per box, 90c.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—There was a fair movement in grain during the forenoon, but the afternoon was entirely maintained prices. Receipts continue rather light. The attendance at the Chamber of Commerce sales-room was small, and there were light, the greater portion of the sales reported below being made on the street, after Chamber. Wheat is very light supply with few offerings and a higher feeling. We quote sales by carload, track, on the street at $1 30@1 35 @ bushel; extra Michigan white at $1 42@1 47; Ohio and Illinois do @1 20@1 25, extra do @1 30@1 35; Pennsylvania red wheat @1 16@1 17. The only sale reported on the Exchange floor to-day was 2 cars prime white at $1 30@1 35 @ bushel. Corn was active and firmer, with sales reported of eight cars as follows: Shelled 2 cars new per Pittsburgh Junction Railroad, and those into store, at 46c @ bushel; 2 cars high mixed at 45½@46c; 2 cars choice yellow at 46c; 2 cars choice amber at 47c. Corn was active and firmer, with sales reported as follows: Shelled 2 cars new per Pittsburgh Junction Railroad, and those into store, at 46c @ bushel; 2 cars high mixed at 45½@46c; 2 cars choice yellow at 46c; 2 cars choice amber at 47c. Corn was active and firmer, with sales reported as follows: 1 car ear mixed corn, in store, at 45c @ bushel; 1 car shelled corn, prime yellow, 75c; 1 car shelled corn, high mixed, 75c; 1 car white oats, 65c; 1 car white oats, 65½c.

RYE—The market is firm and fairly active. There was an upward tendency in spring wheat flours on which some dealers have advanced their prices ¼@¾c @ bbl, but many are the wholesale prices of the local millers: No. 1 white wheat flour, $7 20@7 50; No. 1 family flour, $6 75@7 00; No. 2 red wheat flour $6 10@6 40; No. 3 do, $5 50@5 75. The following are the prices of feed which are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $6 25@6 50; Wisconsin $5 50@5 75; Minnesota $5 50@5 75; Ohio and Illinois $5 00@5 25; rye flour $5 75@6 00; Graham flour $5 75@6 00; self-rising buckwheat flour, $4 50@4 75 @ package; $5 00@5 25 @ dozen packages; cornmeal $5 50; oatmeal $7 75@8 00.

HAY—Under the influence of the heavy stock now in market, the hay trade weakened about $1 00@2 00 per ton, and the tendency is still downward. We quote sales of car lots on the levee only at $22 00 per ton; 2 cars do at $21 00; 2 cars prairie $15 50; 3 cars mixed prairie $16 00. We quote prime timothy at $ 00@ 00; No. 1 do $18 00@19 00; No. 2 do $18 00@19 00; inferior timothy hay, $ 00@ 00; clover hay is quoted at $23 00@24 00. Loose hay is selling at $20 00@22 00 per ton; baling at $16 00@18 00 for No. 2. Straw is quoted at $16 00@18 00 @ ton.

MILL FEED—The market is easier. Bran is selling at $1 00@1 05 @ cwt; shorts at $1 05@1 10 @ cwt; middlings at $1 45@1 55 @ cwt; chopped feed at $1 55@1 65 @ cwt; oil meal $ 00@2 00 @ cwt. We quote the sale of 1 car middlings at $1 40 @ cwt.

Groceries.

The grocery trade was fairly active to-day some dealers reporting the heaviest day's business of the season. Prices are steady, with a reduced lc @ ℔, although green were firmer. Sugars are a little firmer, although some dealers are a trifle below the following list of quotations. New Orleans molasses is in good supply and active. Prices current are as follows:

Green Coffees.	℔	*Sugars.*	
Fancy Rio	22½c	Standard A	10½c
Choice Rio	22c	Standard B	10c
Prime Rio	21½c	Standard extra C	10c
Good Rio	20½c	Standard extra C	9½c
Java	35 c	Amerikon extra C	9½c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans	8@9 c
Rio, in papers	26 c	Cut loaf	11½c
Rio, in bulk	25½c	Crushed	11½c
Java, in papers	35 c	Powdered	11½c
Java, in bulk	34½c	Granulated	11½c
Teas.		*Molasses.*	₲ gal
Young Hyson	50c@$1 00	Strictly ch'c N.O.	70c
Gunpowder	50c@1 25	Prime	60c
Imperial	50c@1 00	Good	55c
Japan	50c@1 00	*Syrups.*	
Oolong	75c@1 00	Ex. white drips	75c
Fancy	1 00	Ex. white drips	75c
Souchong	75c@ 85	Sugar drips	60c
Coffee Sugar.		Lower grades	45@50c
Choice Cafrol's	8½c	*Starch.*	₲ ℔
Patna	7½c	Pearl	5 c
Hungarian	7½c	Corn gloss	10½c
Spices.	₲ ℔	*Corn.*	
Cloves	35 c	Shelled	75c
Allspice	17½@18c	Layers, ₲ bx	$1 25
Cassia	35 @40 c	Valentias, ₲ ℔	12 c
Nutmegs	$1 60@1 40	Currants, ₲ ℔	12 c
Pepper	26 @27 c	Prunes	10@12c
Candies.		*Soaps.*	
Star, full weight	18½c	Irish soap ₲ box	$1 50
Stearine	15c	Babbitt's best ₲ box	7 00
Soda.		Babbitt's best ₲ ℔	7½c
Bi-carb, in 5-3 pkgs.	6c	German Mottled	5 c
Bi-carb, in papers	8c		

TOBACCO—There is a steady and strong demand. Quotations are as follows:

Spun roll	60@62c	Rough & Ready	62@65c
Black Jack	60@62c	Fine Cut	50@60c
Black Tents	57@60c	Fine Cut	50@60c
Black Quarters	57@60c	Cut and Dry	50@62c
Louisville Cav	68@70c	Black Snuff	50@60c
Louisville Cav., 6 ℔	68@70c	Black Snuff	60@65c
Virginia Navy	55@60c	Cigars—	
Virginia Tens	58@60c	Cigars—	
Virginia Cav	59@60c	Penn's Seed	$18@22
Bonbon Black	60@65c	Connecticut Seed	18@22c
Flounders	62@65c	Seed & Havana	30@35
Bright Pounds	60@ 1 Havana		60@$1 00

Feed—Prices for feed demand as steady prices. We quote as follows:

No. 1 extra mess	...	Large do ₲ 100	40 lbs
mackerel	$25 00	Small do ₲ 100	40 lbs
No. 1 mess	23 00	₲ ½ bbl, fish	20 lbs
No. 2 mess, before ₲ ½ bbl	21 00	₲ bbl, fish	6 50
Extra No. 1 bay	15 00	Lake herring, ₲	4 75
No. 1 bay	14 00	Lake herring, ₲	4 25
No. 2 bay	11 50	Labrador herring	
New No. 3	9 50	₲ bbl	$7 00@7 50
Georges codfish,		Bloaters ₲ box	2 00@2 25
medium, ₲ 100	6 00	Bloaters ₲ box	2 25

Country Produce

APPLES—Under a large supply the market is lower. We quote choice at $2 50@2 75 per bbl; prime $2 00@2 50; common to medium, dull at $1 25@1 75.

APPLE BUTTER—Is in fair supply and prices are easy. We quote at 90@55c ₲ gallon, in kegs, for prime; 45@48c for common.

BEANS—Still there is a firm market with a limited supply and active demand. We quote prime white navy at $2 00@2 10 per bushel; medium at $1 85@1 90; fair to good $1 70@1 80.

BUTTER—We quote extra choice yellow at 25 @26c; fancy dairy and choice country at 22@24c for prime; 15@18c for common to medium.

BUCKWAX—Prime yellow beeswax is quoted at 31@32c @ ℔; dark and mixed, dull; nothing way are made at 30@30c @ ℔.

CHEESE—The market continues very quiet, with business confined chiefly to jobbing transactions. Prices are steady at 16@16½c @ ℔ for full cream New York factory; 15@15½c @ ℔ for sweitzer; 17@18c @ ℔.

EGGS—There was a fair market with a liberal supply. Receipts were 88 packages by river, and 6 packages by rail. We quote at 25@26c per dozen for fresh.

HOMINY—The market rules at $4 50 @ barrel.

FEATHERS—Are quoted as follows: No. 1, @ ℔ 55@56c; No. 2, @ ℔ 45@46c in a jobbing way. No. 2, @ ℔, 20@35c, as to quality.

MOLASSES—Is quoted at 50c @ gallon in a jobbing way.

MAPLE SUGAR—Maple sugar is coming in freely and is sold at 9@10c @ ℔ for choice cakes; medium loose 11@12c; maple syrup in gallon jugs sells readily at $1 50 per gallon; in kegs at $1 40; in barrels $1 25.

POTATOES—The market is about steady and prices are fairly full, quotations being generally well maintained. Transactions from store are at a range of $1 05@1 10 per bushel for prime Peerless; 95c@$1 00; other grades 90@95c. Sales on

THE

Pittsburgh Daily Commercial,

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE.

Now is the Time to Subscribe.

The conductors of the COMMERCIAL have for some time contemplated a Reduction in the Price of the Paper to Subscribers, where delivered by Carriers or Agents, and now announce that from and after MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1875, the terms to such will be

Fifteen Cents Per Week.

Leave your orders for the Carrier at the Counting Room of this office.

CITY MATTERS.

For one dollar per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed daily to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., March 29, 1875.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A.M.	30.268	39	72	E.	Light.	Clear.
2 P.M.	30.194	58	47	E.	Fresh.	Clear.
9 P.M.	30.294	45	72	E.	Light.	Clear.

Mean barometer....30.245 Highest thermom..58.5
Mean thermometer. 46.7 Lowest thermom....33

Pittsburgh Female College.

Spring Term commences April 15. Send to Rev. I. C. Pershing, D. D., for catalogue.

Dam No. 3 Giving Way.

A dispatch received from Elizabeth, on the Monongahela, last night, says dam No. 3, near that place, is giving way, and that there is little chance of saving it. The breaking of this dam will, it is feared, entail serious losses upon our coal merchants and steamboatmen.

1,500 Barrels

Rising Sun Flour to arrive this week via Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, it being the first shipment of flour from Chicago to Pittsburgh by this route. The advantages gained through shipping by this route enable the Rising Sun to be sold at lower prices than other brands of flour brought to this market via Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad.

Myers, the Murderer.

A petition addressed to the Board of Pardons, has been drawn up, to be signed by the jurors who tried the case, provided the motion now pending for a new trial should be overruled. The petition sets forth that "whilst compelled by law, as given to the jury by the Court, to convict defendant of murder in the first degree, yet we believe that from the evidence before us he was rather the victim of the arts and influences of another than intentionally and purposely guilty of the crime, and that it would be a wise and just exercise of the power reposed in the honorable Board of Pardons, to commute his sentence to imprisonment for life, or for a term of years."

A Sign of The Times.

People who are too indolent to leave their couches in the morning in time to see the sun rise, have only to take a walk out Liberty street, at any time of day that may suit them, and at the establishment of F. W. Jenkins & Bro. they can see a painting, depicting Sol's upcoming, which is nearly as interesting as the real thing. Reference is here had to a new sign, just put in front of the great flour depot, calling public attention to the celebrated "Rising Sun" brand, for which this firm are the agents here. The sign is really a work of art, having been painted by a gentleman who has an established reputation. The sun is shown when just above the horizon, gilding with its first rays a beautiful landscape. Altogether it is a most creditable piece of work, alike to the artist and the firm for whom it was made. It will pay any one to walk to the great flour store and see it; and it will pay all dealers in flour to favor F. W. Jenkins & Bro. with their patronage.

Coal for the Water Works.

The Committee of Councils on City Property met last evening for the purpose of considering bids for the supply of coal for the year.

Bids for the furnishing of coal for the water works were opened, and the award made to the Castle Shannon Coal Company at 5 39-100 cents per bushel for the lower works and 6 3-10 cents for the upper works.

For the Forty-fifth street works the award was made to C. H. Armstrong at 6 cents per bushel.

The matter of furnishing fuel for the Municipal Hall, market-houses and police stations was referred to a sub-committee of three, no bids for all having been received.

▶ An application was received from John Dill asking a lease of the triangular piece of land on Liberty street and Hill (formerly known as Eighth street for fifty dollars a year. Referred to a committee. Adjourned.

Spelling Matches to Come Off.

There will be a match at Liberty street Methodist Episcopal church this evening.

At the Third Methodist church, Rev. J. H. Hull's, corner of Fifth avenue and Van Braam street, this evening, Rev. S. R. Frazier will be "schoolmaster," and Rev. Mr. Hull referee. Miss Annie Moore and Mr. William Black are the captains.

At the Lutheran church, at Arch street and Stockton avenue, Allegheny, this evening, one class will consist entirely of ladies, headed by Mrs. Eisenbeis, and the other entirely of gentlemen, headed by Captain Hays.

At the Sixth Presbyterian church, corner of Franklin and Townsend streets, this evening, the pastor, S. J. Wilson, D.D., consented to act as schoolmaster, and Mr. R. B. Petty, Clerk of the Common Pleas Court No. 1, and Moore Gray, Esq., will serve as captains.

At the First Presbyterian church, corner of Sarah and Twentieth street, South Side, this evening.

At the South Side Baptist church, Rev. James P. Hunter, pastor, on Thursday night next. The classes will consist of twenty-five ladies and an equal number of gentlemen. There will be a good deal of excitement and no little fun over this contest.

LETTER FROM NEBRASKA.

An Appeal for Aid—Seed, Grain, Clothing, Etc., Solicited.

LIBERTY CREEK, March 25, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I suppose you have heard of the distress of the people in Nebraska, caused by the grasshoppers. Hundreds of our people lost the whole of last year's crops, as I did myself. There is great distress in this neighborhood; but we would be thankful and satisfied if we could only get enough grain for seed, and something to eat until God blesses us with another crop. As I am not acquainted with anyone in your city, you will please excuse the liberty I have taken. I desire you to put our case before the benevolent people of Pittsburgh, and thus receive the thanks of our suffering citizens. There are a great many Irish emigrants people, and Germans in this neighborhood, who have no relations in the surrounding States, to whom they can apply for assistance, which makes our case worse. I have been appointed to solicit and distribute anything that may be sent—money, old clothing, etc., will be thankfully received. I would be glad to correspond with some of your benevolent citizens, and hope to hear from some of them soon.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES S. BEACHAM.

Distributing Agent of School District No. 5, Nelson, Nuckolls county, Nebraska.

EXTENSIVE FORGERIES.

A Member of an Ohio Street Firm Disappears—A Bank Suffers to the Extent of $6,000—Several Individuals Swindled.

The talk on Ohio street, Allegheny, yesterday, particularly among business men, was mainly about the disappearance of the senior partner in a firm doing business on that thoroughfare, and the facts brought to light after his departure concerning some little financial operations. It seems that the party in question left the city last Thursday. For some time prior to his departure he had been obtaining money at the Enterprise Savings bank, in the Sixth ward, upon notes of the firm, indorsed by different parties. A recent investigation by the officers of the bank develops the disagreeable fact that the indorsements upon this paper were forged, and that the assets of the firm drawing the same amount to almost nothing. It was learned that the forger has gone to New York, and it is thought that ere this he has sailed for Germany, his native country. The police authorities of New York were notified by telegraph Saturday, of the flight of the forger, but as he had time to take passage for Europe before the sending of the telegrams, it is not improbable that the fugitive is now safely on his way to fatherland. The amount obtained from the bank by means of the forged indorsements will exceed $6,000, in addition to which the scoundrel borrowed about $2,000 from particular friends, in sums varying from $250 to $700. The forger left a wife and several children unprovided for. He is about forty years of age, has been in business on Ohio street for many years, and has until now borne a good reputation.

House Bill 54 Unconstitutional.

The Court Refuses to Appoint Assessors.

THE DUTY EXTRA JUDICIAL.

OPINION BY JUDGE WHITE.

Can the Legislature Impose Other Than Judicial Duties Upon the Courts?

In the Court of Common Pleas No. 2 (Judges Kirkpatrick and White on the bench), Judge White yesterday delivered an opinion as to the constitutionality of House Bill No. 54, which is the supplement to the Wallace act, passed at the last session of the Legislature. This supplement embraces the provisions for the classification of property, the appointment of a board of assessors, and various other measures recommended by the Councils of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, as affecting their interests. It was upon the application for the appointment of assessors that the Court rendered the opinion which we give below:

TEXT OF THE OPINION.

By an act of the Legislature, approved the 18th day of March, 1875, the Judges of this Court (Common Pleas No. 2 of Allegheny county) are required to appoint three residents citizens of Pittsburgh, "as a Board of Assessors, to make, revise, or alter assessments of all subjects of taxation, for taxation for city purposes, who shall serve for three years from the date of their appointment."

It is somewhat uncertain from the language of the act, whether the Legislature intended to impose this duty upon the Judges as a court, or as individuals. The language is: "That the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas No. 2 * * shall immediately after the passage of this act, and every third year thereafter, appoint," &c. From the permanent character of the duty—to be performed every third year—it would seem to be a duty imposed upon the court; while the language used, "the Judges of the Court," may bear the construction that the duty is imposed upon them as individuals, simply designating them by the office they hold. But in either case, it is evident the Legislature meant to make the duty imperative by using the word "shall."

Regarded in either light, the act involves great constitutional principles, and raises a question of public policy, worthy the most serious consideration. Can the Legislature impose such duties upon the judiciary or the Judges?

[The learned Judge then refers at some length to the manner in which the legislative, executive and judicial powers have been exercised in despotic and monarchical governments, and to the historical fact that our government was founded on the fundamental idea that these three functions should be exercised by three separate and independent departments. He then continues:]

So entirely distinct and independent are these departments of the government, and so exclusive their powers and functions, that it has been held by all the courts, and has become an axiom in American politics, that the Legislature cannot exercise judicial powers nor the judiciary legislative powers, nor can the Legislature delegate its powers to the courts, or even to the people at a popular election.

THE DANGERS OF POLITICAL PATRONAGE.

The province of the judiciary is to interpret and pronounce the law and enforce the legal rights of suitors. It has no part in the making of the laws. It has nothing to do in the administration of the public affairs of the State. It should possess no political power or patronage, and not be involved in the strifes of political parties. This is absolutely essential to its independence and purity. Power and patronage are always, more or less, corrupting. Judges are naturally the same as other men, possessing the same passions, and liable to be influenced by the same motives. If they have the dispensation of patronage and the power of appointment to political offices, it is unreasonable to expect that they will always rise superior to party and never be influenced by personal considerations. Especially at this time, when Judges are elective, and are looking forward to a renomination and re-election. Besides, if they possess political powers and patronage, the office must inevitably become a political office, sought after and filled by politicians only.

Heretofore the judiciary of our State has occupied a high position, and has had the confidence of the people. While the Judges of some other States have been charged with bribery and corruption, our Judges have escaped with scarcely a breath of suspicion against them. But how will it be in this case, if they are clothed with political powers, and have favors and patronage to bestow?

UNJUST CHARGES OF CORRUPTION.

There is a general outcry very unreasonable and unjust I think it is) against those who make and execute the laws; and sweeping charges of corruption are made against the Legislature, the City Councils and all municipal officers. But this outcry, just or unjust as necessary, in order to secure honest men as assessors, because corrupt political rings control the Councils and control the popular elections. But certainly that class do not constitute a majority of the voters. If all good citizens would take an active part in the nominations and elections, they could secure honest and capable public officers. The result would be far better than to neglect their duty and then call upon the courts to save them from the consequences of their own dereliction of duty. But is it possible for the Judges to make appointments that will give entire satisfaction?

THE COURT BESET WITH APPLICATIONS.

No doubt some will be disappointed and complain, and, perhaps, accuse us of acting from improper motives. We have been beset with applications and recommendations. We are urged by warm personal friends of applicants because they are active partisans, and for the same reason, others strenuously oppose them. Some insist upon all being Republicans, and others think the Democrats should have at least some member of the Board.

These facts are mentioned merely to illustrate the natural and inevitable tendency of such legislation. It not only places the Judges in a most unpleasant and embarrassing position, but it strikes at the independence and purity of the judiciary.

ASSESSOR OF TAXES A POLITICAL OFFICE.

The assessment and collection of taxes are among the highest attributes of sovereignty, and belong to the other departments of the government. It is the duty of the Legislature to provide a mode for making the assessment and collecting the taxes; and the officers who execute these duties belong to the executive department of the State. Since the formation of our State, assessors have been elected by the people. It is a political office. It is a part of the political organization for administering one of the ordinary functions of the body politic. It is not connected, in any manner or form, with the judicial department.

THE LEGISLATURE EXCEEDS ITS POWER.

Giving the appointment of assessors to the court's or to the Judges, is, therefore, a violation of long established usage, and of the fundamental principles of our State government. The Legislature has no right to take from the executive department a portion of its powers, and confer them upon the judiciary. If the Legislature can take from the people the election of assessors and give the power of appointment to the Judges, they can take away the election of a Mayor and councilmen of a city, or any county officer, and vest the appointment of all such in the Judges. In this way the judiciary would become not only the most powerful, but also the most dangerous, if not the most corrupt, department of the State. Formerly it was thought that the judiciary was the weakest of the three departments; for it had "neither force nor will, but merely judgment." But with the power to pass upon the constitutionality of all acts of the Legislature, and to declare them void; and with the power by mandamus and injunction, to control and restrain the action of all state, county and municipal officers—powers now recognized as belonging to the judiciary—it has become actually the most powerful of the three. Hence the greater necessity of excluding it from all political power and patronage. Such was the opinion of distinguished statesmen at the time of the enactment, it should be scrupulously careful not to exercise any power not legitimately belonging to it.

These remarks apply to power conferred upon the Judges, as individuals or Commissioners, with as much, if not greater force, as to powers conferred upon the courts. For acting as Judges, they may feel greater responsibilities, being liable to impeachment, or to having their judgments reviewed by a superior tribunal; whereas, as individuals, they are answerable only to public opinion.

HEARING APPEALS NOT A JUDICIAL DUTY.

The act in question not only requires the Judges to appoint the Assessors, but it constitutes the Court of Common Pleas No. 2 an appellate Board of Assessors, to hear and decide all appeals taken by taxpayers from the decisions of the Board of Assessors. The language of the third section is: "They (the Assessors) shall hear and determine all appeals of taxpayers, from their assessments, made under such rules and regulations as they shall prescribe, subject to an appeal from their decision to the Court of Common Pleas No. 2 of the county, whose decision shall be final."

In this case the duty is imposed upon the court," and not upon the "Judges," and was evidently meant to be imposed as a judicial duty. But what is the duty thus enjoined? Not the interpretation of any law, or the enforcing of any legal rights of a taxpayer. It is the fixing and adjusting of the assessments or valuations of the properties. Any taxpayer who may think his valuation too high, in comparison with that of any other, would have a right to appeal. The determination of that appeal does not depend upon any legal question, but upon the question of fact, whether his valuation is higher, relatively, than the other. To determine it requires no legal learning or ability, but does require knowledge and experience in the value of property. The Judges have no peculiar qualifications for this duty, in fact they might be eminently unfit for it. It is not, in any sense, or viewed in any light, a judicial duty, and does not properly fall within the judicial department of the State.

If assessors transcend their powers or act illegally in the performance of their duties, the party injured has his remedy, and by application to court in proper form, can have his wrongs redressed. That raises a judicial question of which the courts have jurisdiction. But under this act the court is to sit as a kind of revising board, to adjust and equalize the assessments. That duty requires judgment and discretion, both of which the Judges in banc are required in most administrative offices. That alone does not make it a judicial duty.

Every taxpayer may take an appeal; there may be hundreds of them, involving the value of property in every ward and precinct in the city. To determine these appeals may require weeks and months. In the meantime the regular business of the court would be stopped and cause pending be delayed, to the great prejudice and injury of suitors. Shall this be done, that the Judges, elected for the county may sit as a revising board of assessors for the city of Pittsburgh?

CAN THE LEGISLATURE IMPOSE EXTRA JUDICIAL DUTIES?

There has been a tendency of late years to cast upon the Judges, especially in the cities, extra judicial duties. Unless this tendency be checked, it is difficult to tell where it may end. Perhaps it is time to raise the question, whether the Legislature can, constitutionally, in our opinion, confer extra judicial duties upon the courts, and whether it is proper for Judges to assume them.

Happily, there have been but few occasions for raising this question, and hence we have but few decisions upon the subject. I cannot find that it has ever been directly before the Supreme Court of our State. But it has arisen in the Supreme Court of the United States, and the principles there announced may guide us to a correct conclusion.

What are judicial duties? The province of the judiciary, as defined by Judge Story, is "to interpret, pronounce and execute the law; to decide controversies and to enforce rights." In speaking of the Judges of the courts of the United States, he says,—and I apprehend the same is true of the Judges of our State Courts: "The functions of the Judges of the courts of the United States are strictly and exclusively judicial. They cannot, therefore, be called upon by the President in any executive measure, or to give extra judicial interpretations of the law, or to act as commissioners in cases of pensions or other like duty."

Sec—Constitution of United States.

[Judge White then cites cases wherein Congress attempted to put extra judicial duties upon the Federal courts, and which were declared unconstitutional.]

The principles announced in the cases just referred to apply to the State courts as well as to the Federal courts. They were deduced, not from any particular provisions of the Constitution of the United States, but from the organic nature of the Government, in which all powers are apportioned to three independent branches, and the character of the judicial department. And, according to those principles, the act in question is unconstitutional because it imposes duties that are not judicial in their nature, or to be performed in a judicial manner.

A CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATION.

The danger and impropriety of imposing extra-judicial duties upon the Secretary, and of giving Judges the patronage of appointments, was felt in the late Constitutional Convention, and a section was introduced into the new Constitution in reference to the Supreme Court, that "No duties shall be imposed by law upon the Supreme Court or any of the Judges thereof, except such as are judicial, nor shall either of the Judges thereof exercise any power of appointment except as herein provided." This section was inserted mainly for the purpose of prohibiting the Legislature from conferring, and the Judges from exercising, any power of appointment. The tendency to give them such powers and patronage was regarded as a growing evil. It was not considered so liable to abuse in the Judges of inferior courts. But, perhaps, it was quite as unwise not to have extended it to all courts and Judges. It does not, however, that the limitation to the Supreme Courts left that Legislature free to confer such powers and duties upon other Judges. The objection to the conferring or exercising of such powers and duties does not rest on the constitutional prohibition, but is based on the fundamental structure of the government, by which such powers and duties belong to the other departments, and not to the judiciary.

OTHER OBJECTIONS TO THE ACT.

There are other objections to this act. The act revives all appeals from the decisions of the Board of Assessors to be taken to the Court of Common Pleas No. 2. Now, if the act is to be construed as conferring judicial power, and these appeals to be considered proper judicial proceedings, by limiting them to the Court of Common Pleas No. 2, the whole act in violation of article fifth, section sixth of the new Constitution? That section provides that "in the counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny, all the jurisdiction and powers now possessed in the District Courts and Courts of Common Pleas, subject to such changes as may be made by this Constitution or by law, shall be, in Philadelphia vested in the former, in Allegheny in two distinct and separate courts of equal and co-ordinate jurisdiction." Can jurisdiction be given to one court only?

SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

The new Constitution was also intended to cut up by the roots all special legislation. It expressly prohibits the General Assembly from passing any local or special law, inter alia, for "regulating the affairs of counties, cities, etc., "incorporating cities or changing their charters," or "creating offices, or prescribing the powers and duties of officers in cities." The act in question is exclusively for the city of Pittsburgh; it creates a new office, and prescribes the powers and duties of the officers specially to be appointed. Such a law, even if it is under the guise of a general law for all cities of the second class. But it is, nevertheless, to all intents and purposes, a local and special law, for it is notorious that the city of Pittsburgh is the only city of the second class in the State.

THE TITLE OF THE ORIGINAL BILL DOES NOT COVER THE SUPPLEMENT.

The Constitution also provides that "No bill, except general appropriation bills, shall be passed containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title." This act is entitled "A supplement to a former act, referring to the former act by its title and date of passage." The title as nothing to indicate the subject of the supplement except the title of the original act. That act was approved March 23, 1874, and was entitled "An act dividing the cities of this State into three classes, regulating the passage of ordinances, providing for contracts for supplies and work for said cities, authorizing the issuing of bonds and certificates of indebtedness, sinking fund to redeem the same, defining and punishing certain offenses in all of said cities, and providing for the incorporation and government of cities of the third class."

This "supplement" contains several subjects, only one of which can, with any propriety of language, be said to be embraced, or "clearly expressed," in the title of the original act. It contains six subjects—the first, referring to offices of the first class, may be within the constitutional rule; but the other five, which refer to cities of the second class (Pittsburgh), clearly are not. First, it extends certain provisions of the original act to cities of the third class. 2d. It creates a Board of Assessors for the second class. 3d. It authorizes Councils to issue pawnbrokers. 4th. It authorizes them to dismiss city Hall commissioners. 5th. It contains special provisions in reference to the opening of streets and the paving of side walks in cities of the second class. 6th. It gives certain new powers to the Councils of cities of the second class in reference to the supervision of the official conduct of all city officers, &c.

If the constitutional restrictions referred to do not prohibit such numerous and varied legislation as this, it will be difficult to tell their meaning or application.

DECLINE TO APPOINT ASSESSORS.

For these reasons we decline to appoint a Board of Assessors, as required by the recent act of Assembly. And we make this public announcement at this early day, in order to give opportunity to those who may be dissatisfied with our decision to apply to the Supreme Court to instruct us, if we are in error, in time to carry out the provisions of the act for the coming year. There will need for considerable appointment. The assessments are completed for the present year. The Assessors, as elected now, would have no special duties to perform for several months to come. After the Supreme Court shall have passed upon the question, it will be time enough to appoint them for the next year. As the question is one of some importance, we hope the case will be taken up to the Supreme Court, if they differ from us, and we will be glad to do so cheerfully and unhesitatingly. We shall not shrink from assuming responsibility when necessary, but desire, in the performance of duty when the path of duty is made apparent.

JUDGE KIRKPATRICK CONCURS.

On the delivery of the opinion, Judge Kirkpatrick said:

I very fully and entirely concur in the opinion of my brother White just read. I have examined the matter very carefully myself, and have had frequent conferences and consultations with my learned colleagues in regard to such as its importance demanded. Before its delivery I had seen and heard the opinion fully pronounced and am entirely satisfied as well with the conclusions as the reasons assigned as inducing them.

A MANDAMUS BEFORE THE COURTS.

The proper way to bring the question before the Supreme Court for review, is to apply for a mandamus to compel the Judges of the Common Pleas No. 2 to make the appointment of Assessors, as required by the act. To this end, a resolution was passed by Councils, at their session yesterday, instructing the City Attorney to apply to the Supreme Court for a mandamus requiring the Judges to appoint the Assessors.

A STATE OFFICE ABOLISHED.

Construction of a Dubious Passage of the New Constitution.

Judge Allison, of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, has delivered an opinion in the case of George Elton vs. Geissert, Lehr and Bunting. The plaintiff was a State Inspector of Leather, and the application was for an injunction to restrain the other defendants, who were his deputies, from stamping leather as experts, and the firm of Massey & Janney from dealing in leather inspected and marked by them. The injunction asked for was refused by the Court, on the ground that the office of State Inspector of Leather had been abolished by the new Constitution, and the decision turned upon the construction of the following section:

"No State office shall be continued or created for the inspection or measuring of any merchandise, or commodity, but any county or municipality may appoint such officers when authorized by law."—Section 27, Article 10.

The twenty-sixth and twenty-ninth articles of the schedule were also cited in connection with the above. The judge says:

"The twenty-sixth article by which no one can be given to the whole of the section, except to interpret it as if it read: No State office shall be continued or created by virtue of this Constitution, or created by the Legislature for inspection.

It would have been much more satisfactory, and prevented much difficulty, if the section had been thus framed, or if in direct terms it had been made to read: "The State offices of inspection of merchandise, manufacture or commodity, are hereby abolished."

The inquiry is a most important one. What was the purpose which the convention sought to accomplish, or the mischief for which they desired to provide a remedy? Without attempting to get rid of the State offices of inspection, and when they said no State office for inspection or measuring shall be continued, and an indent to be made, can it be supposed that they are to suppose that they intended to mean that they should not be continued thereafter, that is, after the adoption of the Constitution, the mischief should not be at once remedied. To reject this conclusion would be to hold that the offices would definitely continue, the laws of their creation not having been repealed, and would render the clause that they were not to be continued insensible and unmeaning, as they would continue by virtue, not of future, but of past legislation.

The schedule was added to the body of the instrument, that inconvenience should not result on the change in the Constitution, but this, in its effect upon persons in office, was intended to prevent inconvenience to those who filled offices that were in harmony with the instrument, and not to such as had been deprived of their office by its adoption.

The general provisions for persons in office, contained in the 26th and 29th sections, are not to be allowed to override or overrule the special and particular operation of Article III., section 27; both may stand in the instrument without conflict. This being the case, the latter does not take away or alter that which precedes it.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

Miss Ada Gray opened her engagement last evening in "Whose Wife?" supported by the full strength of the Opera House company. The star is a lady of consi derable beauty of person, and an actress of more than ordinary talent. The play she chose for her first appearance is one which requires the repeated display of different emotions, and when we say that *Goldie* appeared to advantage, we mean to give her credit for an order of acting above the ability of the average feminine star. The stock company did very well. Mr. Owen has a good part for him. He having really distinguished herself as the French maid. The same play will be given to-night.

Trimble's Varieties Theater.

The Lillian sisters, Baker and Doyle, Harry Bryant and John T. Kelley, the new aspirants for favor at this theater, were greeted with a fine audience last night, and created a very favorable impression. Queen and West and a number of old favorites did their best to add to the interest of the occasion. All will appear again this evening.

"Dora."

All who desire to pass a pleasant Saturday evening, as well as to contribute their mite to the aid of the poor, should secure seats for the performance of "Dora," at Library Hall on Saturday evening, by the O. B. Doud Dramatic Association. Seats are on sale at Kleber's, Wood street.

Charlotte Cushman's Farewell.

The sale of seats for Charlotte Cushman's farewell readings in this city, which are to take place on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, at Library Hall, begins tomorrow at J. M. Hale's music store, 193 Smithfield street.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Regular Meeting—Mandamus on Court of Common Pleas No. 2 Proposed—The Nation Trust Company Attorney's Fees—Routine Business.

A regular meeting of City Councils was held yesterday afternoon. There was quite a large attendance of outsiders in both lobbies, expecting no doubt the presentation of the alternative *mandamus* in the matter of Christopher Magee, who demands that he be sworn in as Mayor.

SELECT COUNCIL.

Dr. Gross, President, occupied the chair in this branch, and after the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting,

Mr. Liddell called up the matter of the contest of Mr. Mowry for the seat of Charles Jeffrey, member from the seventh ward.

Mr. Metzger made the point of order that Councils had no jurisdiction in the matter, it being with the courts.

Mr. Liddell moved that the whole matter be laid on the table. This motion was lost, and the matter was referred to the City Solicitor for an opinion.

Mr. Dannals presented petitions for tax exonerations. Referred.

Mr. Liddell, petition for a board walk on Arch and Jones streets. Referred.

Mr. Harrison, resolution to exempt the Home of the Friendless from over assessment for Try street sewer. Referred to the Street Committee.

Mr. Epping, petition for water pipe on Thirteenth street. Referred.

Mr. Littell, petition for grading of Homewood avenue and for change of grade on Lang avenue. Referred.

THE MANDAMUS.

Wm. Bruce, when the 23d ward was called, stated that he, with others, had prepared an answer to the alternative mandamus issued by the court in the matter of the application of Mr. Magee claiming to have been elected Mayor. He desires to say that it was ready for signatures.

Mr. Allison objected to entertaining the subject.

The chair stated that he understood that the city attorney had accepted summons and would make answer, and in consequence action was deferred.

Mr. Brown from the water committee presented the pay rolls of the water committee for December 1874 and January 1875 received and filed.

The same gentleman called up the report of the election of the civil and mechanical engineers and asked that they be appointed. On motion approved.

Mr. Breed, from the Road Committee, presented an ordinance for the opening of Gay alley, from Webster avenue to Wylie avenue. Passed finally.

Mr. Blaun presented a bill for $125 for draping City Hall on the occasion of the death of Hon. James Blackmore. A resolution providing for a warrant was passed.

Common Council business was then taken up and acted upon.

Among others, the ordinances relative to the approaches to the Point bridge were concurred in.

THE SUPREME COURT INVOKED.

Mr. Aiken presented the following:

Resolved, That the City Attorney shall be and he is hereby authorized to present at the proper time to the Supreme Court of this Commonwealth the petition of the city of Pittsburgh praying that a mandamus issue from said court to the Court of Common Pleas No. 2, of Allegheny county, commanding them to appoint commissioners for the Board of Assessors, provided for by a supplement to an act dividing the cities of this Commonwealth into classes, &c., approved March 23, 1874, and to that end

"An act dividing the cities of this State into three classes, regulating the passage of ordinances, providing for contracts for supplies and work for said cities, authorizing the issuing of bonds and certificates of indebtedness, sinking fund to redeem the same, defining and punishing certain offenses in all of said cities, and providing for the incorporation and government of cities of the third class."

This resolution was read several subjects, only one of which can, with any propriety of language, be said to be embraced, or "clearly expressed," in the title of the original act. It contains six subjects—the first, referring to offices of the first class, may be within the Constitutional rule; but the other five, which refer to cities of the second class (Pittsburgh), clearly are not. First, it extends certain provisions of the original act to cities of the third class. 2d. It creates a Board of Assessors for the second class. 3d. It authorizes Councils to issue pawnbrokers. 4th. It authorizes them to dismiss city Hall commissioners. 5th. It contains special provisions in reference to the opening of streets and the paving of side walks in cities of the second class. 6th. It gives certain new powers to the Councils of cities of the second class in reference to the supervision of the official conduct of all city officers, &c.

If the constitutional restrictions referred to do not prohibit such numerous and varied legislation as this, it will be difficult to tell their meaning or application.

DECLINE TO APPOINT ASSESSORS.

For these reasons we decline to appoint a Board of Assessors, as required by the recent act of Assembly. And we make this public announcement at this early day, in order to give opportunity to those who may be dissatisfied with our decision to apply to the Supreme Court to instruct us, if we are in error, in time to carry out the provisions of the act for the coming year. There will need for considerable appointment. The assessments are completed for the present year. The Assessors, as elected now, would have no special duties to perform for several months to come. After the Supreme Court shall have passed upon the question, it will be time enough to appoint them for the next year. As the question is one of some importance, we hope the case will be taken up to the Supreme Court, if they differ from us, and we will be glad to do so cheerfully and unhesitatingly. We shall not shrink from assuming responsibility when necessary, but desire, in the performance of duty when the path of duty is made apparent.

JUDGE KIRKPATRICK CONCURS.

On the delivery of the opinion, Judge Kirkpatrick said:

I very fully and entirely concur in the opinion of my brother White just read. I have examined the matter very carefully myself, and have had frequent conferences and consultations with my learned colleagues in regard to such as its importance demanded. Before its delivery I had seen and heard the opinion fully pronounced and am entirely satisfied as well with the conclusions as the reasons assigned as inducing them.

A MANDAMUS BEFORE THE COURTS.

The proper way to bring the question before the Supreme Court for review, is to apply for a mandamus to compel the Judges of the Common Pleas No. 2 to make the appointment of Assessors, as required by the act. To this end, a resolution was passed by Councils, at their session yesterday, instructing the City Attorney to apply to the Supreme Court for a mandamus requiring the Judges to appoint the Assessors.

A STATE OFFICE ABOLISHED.

Construction of a Dubious Passage of the New Constitution.

Judge Allison, of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, has delivered an opinion in the case of George Elton vs. Geissert, Lehr and Bunting. The plaintiff was a State Inspector of Leather, and the application was for an injunction to restrain the other defendants, who were his deputies, from stamping leather as experts, and the firm of Massey & Janney from dealing in leather inspected and marked by them. The injunction asked for was refused by the Court, on the ground that the office of State Inspector of Leather had been abolished by the new Constitution, and the decision turned upon the construction of the following section:

"No State office shall be continued or created for the inspection or measuring of any merchandise, or commodity, but any county or municipality may appoint such officers when authorized by law."—Section 27, Article 10.

The twenty-sixth and twenty-ninth articles of the schedule were also cited in connection with the above. The judge says:

"The twenty-sixth article by which no one can be given to the whole of the section, except to interpret it as if it read: No State office shall be continued or created by virtue of this Constitution, or created by the Legislature for inspection.

It would have been much more satisfactory, and prevented much difficulty, if the section had been thus framed, or if in direct terms it had been made to read: "The State offices of inspection of merchandise, manufacture or commodity, are hereby abolished."

The inquiry is a most important one. What was the purpose which the convention sought to accomplish, or the mischief for which they desired to provide a remedy? Without attempting to get rid of the State offices of inspection, and when they said no State office for inspection or measuring shall be continued, and an indent to be made, can it be supposed that they are to suppose that they intended to mean that they should not be continued thereafter, that is, after the adoption of the Constitution, the mischief should not be at once remedied. To reject this conclusion would be to hold that the offices would definitely continue, the laws of their creation not having been repealed, and would render the clause that they were not to be continued insensible and unmeaning, as they would continue by virtue, not of future, but of past legislation.

The schedule was added to the body of the instrument, that inconvenience should result on the change in the Constitution, but this, in its effect upon persons in office, was intended to prevent inconvenience to those who filled offices that were in harmony with the instrument, and not to such as had been deprived of their office by its adoption.

The general provisions for persons in office, contained in the 26th and 29th sections, are not to be allowed to override or overrule the special and particular operation of Article III., section 27; both may stand in the instrument without conflict. This being the case, the latter does not take away or alter that which precedes it.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

Miss Ada Gray opened her engagement last evening in "Whose Wife?" supported by the full strength of the Opera House company. The star is a lady of consi derable beauty of person, and an actress of more than ordinary talent. The play she chose for her first appearance is one which requires the repeated display of different emotions, and when we say that *Goldie* appeared to advantage, we mean to give her credit for an order of acting above the ability of the average feminine star. The stock company did very well. Mr. Owen has a good part for him. He having really distinguished herself as the French maid. The same play will be given to-night.

Trimble's Varieties Theater.

The Lillian sisters, Baker and Doyle, Harry Bryant and John T. Kelley, the new aspirants for favor at this theater, were greeted with a fine audience last night, and created a very favorable impression. Queen and West and a number of old favorites did their best to add to the interest of the occasion. All will appear again this evening.

"Dora."

All who desire to pass a pleasant Saturday evening, as well as to contribute their mite to the aid of the poor, should secure seats for the performance of "Dora," at Library Hall on Saturday evening, by the O. B. Doud Dramatic Association. Seats are on sale at Kleber's, Wood street.

Charlotte Cushman's Farewell.

The sale of seats for Charlotte Cushman's farewell readings in this city, which are to take place on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, at Library Hall, begins tomorrow at J. M. Hale's music store, 193 Smithfield street.

FIRE LAST NIGHT.

Hale's Music Store, in the Howard Block, Smithfield Street in Danger.

Shortly after nine o'clock last evening an alarm from box 24 brought the fire department, together with a large crowd of people, to the vicinity of Fifth avenue and Smithfield street. Smoke had been discovered issuing from the cellar-way of Hale's music store, in the Howard Block, next door to Fifth avenue, and there was every indication that a serious fire was imminent. The store was closed for the night, and the firemen were compelled to break into the cellar by forcing the padlock with a sledge-hammer. The great volume of smoke that issued prevented the entrance of the men, and they were compelled to direct a stream, "blind" as it were, not knowing exactly where the fire was. Mr. Hale, the proprietor, with his family, occupied the third and fourth floors as a dwelling, and the noise at the door brought him down stairs. Upon gaining entrance to the store room, as soon as breathing could be had by the withdrawal of the smoke, a hole was broke through the floor and the Hilton Distributer attached to a line of hose was put through and water thrown. The machine was used at different places until it was certain that the fire was extinguished. The Distributer is a branch pipe with an apparatus at its nozzle which revolves by the force of the stream and scatters the water in every direction. It is intended for just such fires as that of last night, and showed its relative adaptability and usefulness. The one in use was sent here for trial by the patentee. The fire was put out with but little damage.

After its discovery the volume of smoke which ascended through the house was so great that the family above stairs feared to venture down. There were Mrs. Hale and two children, a wet nurse, with her child, and a Miss Patterson and the hired girl. These all clambered through the trap-door upon the roof, and after repeated attempts at other buildings in their way, succeeded in obtaining an entrance through the building of the same block, corner of Diamond street, occupied by Mr. James Youngson.

It is said that the hired girl had, after supper, visited the cellar to get coal and kindling wood, and it is thought that from the light she carried the fire originated. The contents of the cellar are a regular tinder pile, being composed of straw, paper and wooden boxes.

The loss was not much, and is fully covered by insurance in the Allemenia and the Pennsylvania Insurance Companies.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

Fifteenth Annual Session—First Day's Proceedings.

The fifteenth annual session of the Allegheny County Teachers' Institute commenced yesterday morning in the Fourth ward (Allegheny) school house.

Prof. Eaton opened the session with prayer. The following officers were then elected: President, A. T. Douthett; Vice Presidents, Rev. J. Davis, Ella May, J. N. Caldwell; Secretaries, E. K. Hynds, W. Maloney; Treasurer, John Morrow. Committees on Enrollment and Finance were appointed.

President Douthett delivered the opening address. He called attention to the fact that this was the fifteenth meeting of the County Institute. He then referred to the marked contrast between education and the school systems of to-day and of the days when institutes were first held. The necessity of our schools, the greatness of the work and the wants of the teacher were well portrayed.

The following literary performances then followed:

Prof. Andrew J. Kirschner delivered an oration on the subject of "Earnestness;" essay by Miss Frazer, "What shall we read."

The Institute then took a recess